HEARING GOD’S WORD IN THE SERMON

Date_________________

Since we quickly forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note taking will double the percentage of our take-home response. Why not try it and see!

TITLE:

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

SERMON OUTLINE OR MAIN POINTS:

APPLICATION TO MY LIFE:
1. What did God say specifically to me through the sermon?
2. Is there anything God would have me do?
3. Whom can I help by sharing with them some truth from this sermon?

PSALM 55

SUN DAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and I moan, because of the noise of the enemy …” (v2-3). The psalmist didn’t worry that the Lord would get tired of his prayers. Evening and morning, he brought his fear, anger, and pain to God, confident that He would listen (v17). Like us, the psalmist’s natural desire was to “fly away”, to look for an escape (v6), yet instead he found that God was able to keep him safe in the midst of the battle (v18).

“Cast your burden on the Lord… He will never permit the righteous to be moved” (v22). When everything seems to be crumbling, we stand firm on our unshakeable Rock.

PRAY TODAY FOR: Missionary Raymond Gannon and family (Jewish Ministries)
The Frank (Bonnie) Corum family
**ACTS 1**

"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (v6). The promise of the Spirit (v4) was linked in the disciples' minds to the restoration of Israel's ancient brilliance and national power. They still hadn't grasped what kind of Kingdom Jesus was inaugurating. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to the end of the earth" (v8). The kind of power the Spirit would bring would be far, far greater than human kings and kingdoms.

"You will be My witnesses" (v8). Rather than building our own kingdoms, the Spirit empowers us to witness to Jesus, King of Kings and rightful ruler of every heart.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Mark Gardner and family (Pacific Islands)
The Bob (Marylon) Courtney family

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**ACTS 2**

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (v42). Rather than freeing Israel from the grip of the Roman Empire, the power sent from heaven started a revolution among the community of believers. They were empowered to preach boldly and persuasively, the church multiplied (v41), they saw signs and wonders, and they sold their possessions and shared what they had (v42-47). Before they changed the world, the disciples themselves were changed.

"And awe came upon every soul" (v43). We can only be amazed by the power of Jesus through His Spirit to "make all things new," beginning with our own troubled hearts and lives.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Keith Garner and family (Asia Pacific)
The Merle Cox family

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**I SAMUEL 15**

"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice" (v22). The Lord had given King Saul very clear instructions about his battle against the Amalekites (v3), but Saul decided to modify those instructions a bit (v9), thinking that it wouldn't matter. The prophet Samuel rebuked him, saying that rebellion against God's command was as bad as divination or idolatry (v23). Because Saul rejected the Lord's authority, the Lord rejected him as king (v23).

"To obey is better than sacrifice" (v22). More than the "show" of a dramatic sacrifice, God desires us to honor Him by listening and obeying His clear Word.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Gamal Gerges and family (US Missions)
The Gary (Jan) Crainshaw family

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**I SAMUEL 16-17**

"... that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's" (17:47). David, future King of Israel, won his first battle without a sword. The author repeats: "There was no sword in the hand of David" (17:50). Unlike King Saul, whose lack of trust in God apparently made his soldiers fearful (17:11), David was fully confident that no Philistine could defy "the God of the armies of Israel" (v45), and therefore the glory of victory belonged to the Lord.

"Let no man's heart fail because of him ..." (17:32). Faith isn't reckless bravado, but real confidence in the God we serve. Without swords and spears, He gives us victory.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Kerry Godwin and family (Media Ministries)
The Arja Crampton family

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**I SAMUEL 18-19**

"As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (18:1). Within the intrigues, jealousies, and attempted coups of the royal house, Jonathan's friendship with David shines as something different. Even though Jonathan could have been heir to Saul's throne (and had many kingly qualities), he chose instead to love and support David. Jonathan protected David from Saul and advocated for him at great risk (19:1-5).

"Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David" (19:1). Real friendship, real love, puts aside our own ambitions and agendas and seeks the good of the other, even when it costs us.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Dave Godzwa and family (Mexico)
The Marcia Cull family

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**I SAMUEL 20-21**

"If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die; and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth" (20:14-15). Jonathan loved David for friendship's sake and also because Jonathan saw the hand of God on David's life. Giving up his own claim to the throne, Jonathan aligned himself with God's purposes, knowing that he himself might die in the process.

"Go in peace" (20:42). Peace comes when we surrender ourselves to God's purposes and make decisions that honor Him, come what may, trusting in the steadfast love of the Lord.

**PRAY TODAY FOR:** Missionary Judy Graner and family (Colombia)
The Fern K. Cuneio family