

The New Testament Church
Lesson from the Mulberry Trees – Isaiah 55:1-12
 Pastor Paul Jehle – November 14, 2021

I What is God Saying to us in this Time?

- A. Isaiah 55:1-12 (see also Hosea 10:12) – how do you prepare to seek and hear God?
1. Come, eat and drink of the Lord – without money – the price of priority and sacrifice
 2. You shall become a covenant people – and others will be drawn to you
 3. **SEEK** the Lord while He may be found
 4. His thoughts and ways are not ours, but are higher than ours
 5. Just as surely as nature demonstrates sowing and reaping, His Word will not return void
 6. *You shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace, the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands – v. 12*
- B. John 10:27 – *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*
1. The good shepherd is the Lord Jesus – and He knows His sheep
 2. If you are truly born again, you are capable of hearing His voice – but our heart must be right

II A story with metaphors on the Necessity of Hearing God - 2nd Samuel 5:23-24

- A. David is anointed (confirmed by consent) King of Israel at 30 years of age (called at 15)
1. He has a habit of **seeking God** before making any major decision in his life – that is good
 2. Just how did David learn to **hear His voice**?
 - a. First, he had to have a *heart* to hear God and do His Will – Exodus 28:30
 - b. The Ephod was put upon the High Priest – the names of the Tribes of Israel - Prophet
 - c. The Urim and Thummim (lights and perfection – light and darkness) – oracle Word
 - d. The other way God would speak was through dreams or a vision of Him – the Spirit
 3. Today, we hear God’s voice from His Word, Spirit, Confirmation of others
 - a. Like harbor lights, they must come into line with one another
 - b. The larger the decision and its consequences, the more confirmation one may need
- B. The immediate context of 2nd Samuel 5:17-22 – (quote Spurgeon in May 31, 1857 sermon)
1. The Philistines came to destroy David as King of Israel after being confirmed
 2. They camped in the valley of Rephaim – “valley of giants” – back to Genesis – spiritual evil
 3. David seeks God and He says (through Urim and Thummim); “Go up”
 4. David defeats them and called the place Baal Perazim (breakthrough like water)
 5. Second time God said *circle behind them and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees*
- C. What is God saying?
1. The Mulberry – or Sycamore – baka bush – or Poplar – 20 cm leaves that catch the wind
 - a. It blooms late – once the bad weather is gone – *where there is least risk – little required*
 - b. The Baka-shrub – valley of Baka – depression – Psalm 84:6 – *Rephaim* – valley of giants
 - c. A tree where the Israelites “hung their harps” – weeping – Psalm 137:2
 - d. An object of faith – *cast into the sea* – Luke 17:6
 - e. A seeking of the Lord’s will and voice – Zacchaeus climbed such a tree – Luke 19:4
 2. The “going” in the top of the tree among the leaves
 - a. The “sound of a going” – the “host of the Lord” – the Lord going out to battle
 - b. The rustling of the leaves – the joy of the Lord - clapping hands – Isaiah 55:12
 3. Our moving forward in ambush of the enemy comes through dwelling in confident joy
 - a. Coming around behind the enemy is through worship, prayer and a joyful confidence
 - b. When we seek the Lord and His Will first, we be joyful in the midst of the valley!
- D. In summary – ***it is learning to seek Him, and confidently rest in His will, and thus going out and boldly moving forward in the midst of clapping, or joy, for that is our strength!***