

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 3 ♦ Issue 42 ♦ October 16, 2022

LOUD VOICES OF THE BIBLE

Larry R. Ping II

Just a passing glance at the “news of the day” will show there is a great battle of voices happening. This is true whether they are political voices, athletic voices, news voices or voices which claim to be suppressed. No matter the voice, most today are loud voices. Loud voices are often used to display emphasis. Yet, loud voices can also be used to intimidate and mislead. Loud voices are not a new trend, but even occurred quite frequently in the Word of God. Consider, it was with a loud voice...

1) THE WOMAN, OR WITCH OF ENDOR CRITICIZED KING SAUL.

It is written, “*And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul*” (I Sam. 28:12). Her loud voice was one of surprise, that Samuel actually appeared. This loud voice was the tip-off Samuel’s appearing was of God, not the witch. Often, God allowed certain things in order to teach a lesson, or humble men, as was the case with the men of Egypt who were able to

duplicate certain miracles and signs (Exo. 7:11-12; 7:22; Exo. 8:7).

2) DAVID MOURNED HIS SON ABSALOM.

It is written, “*But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son*” (II Sam. 19:4)! The death of a loved one is always difficult, but when it is a child, it is exceptionally more difficult. David’s loud voice indicated his feeling of deep loss for his son. No doubt, this we can understand.

3) RAB-SHAKEH ATTEMPTED TO TERRIFY THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH.

It is written, “*Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews’ language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria...Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand*” (II Kings 18:28-29). Rab-shakeh was an envoy from the king of Assyria, and his loud voice was meant to fill the people of Judah with dread and discouragement. Often, a loud voice will be successful in this sort of endeavor. However, in this instance, Hezekiah prayed to

and trusted God (II Kings 19:1-7). God mightily delivered Judah from these loud voices as 185,000 Assyrians were smitten and killed (II Kings 19:35).

4) JESUS APPEALED TO HIS FATHER FROM THE CROSS.

It is written, “*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me*” (Matt. 27:46). Jesus’ loud voice was one which felt the weight and enormity of His sacrifice. The Hebrew writer captured this sentiment well when writing Jesus, “*by the grace of God should taste death for every man*” (Heb. 2:9). The Son of God’s enormous sacrifice was not just for some men, but for all. John penned, “*he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world*” (I Jn. 2:2). We should be ever-thankful for this great gift.

5) ELISABETH SPOKE ABOUT JESUS IN HIS MOTHER’S WOMB.

It is written, “*And she spake out with a loud voice, and said,*

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Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb” (Lk. 1:42). This loud voice was one of pure excitement and joy over the One who would come from the womb of Mary. It is of this One the Bible says, “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). What can produce more elation than knowing One is coming Who can take away sin? John would later write Jesus “loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

6) A SAMARITAN LEPER GLORIFIED GOD AND THANKED JESUS FOR HIS HEALING. It is written, “*And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan” (Lk. 17:15-16). There were ten lepers healed of their dreadful disease, but only this one Samaritan returned. His loud voice indicated his great joyfulness over being healed.*

disease, but only this one Samaritan returned. His loud voice indicated his great joyfulness over being healed. No doubt, Naaman felt this same elation (II Kings 5:1-14).

7) JESUS CRIED TO LAZARUS IN THE GRAVE. It is written, “*And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go” (Jn. 11:43-44). This loud voice of the Lord was for the purpose of not only calling a dead man to life, but so that others could hear and see this miracle occur, one which had been prophesied about in Jn. 5:25 when the Lord said, “*the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*”*

8) ANGRY JEWS RAN UPON STEPHEN. It is written, “*Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him*

with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him” (Acts 7:57-58). These loud voices were full of rage for having been accused of being the “betrayers and murderers” of Jesus, the “Just One” (Acts 7:52). This an excellent passage to demonstrate the loudest voices are not always the right ones.

9) STEPHEN CALLED FOR FORGIVENESS. It is written, “*And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep” (Acts 7:60). This loud voice was, no doubt, for the benefit of those who were murdering Stephen. Perhaps ears which heard Stephen’s dying plea would someday later hear God’s Word and obey it, due to this grand example of forgiveness. Jesus begged for the same thing when He said, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” (Lk. 23:34). Perhaps our forgiving others could be the motivation for them to come obediently to God.*

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm