



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE? LISTENING & HEARING

Luke 6:47 – 49 (NLT)

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Phil Kingsley, Guest Speaker

MESSAGE NOTES

Phil and Cheryl Kingsley, one of our global missionary families, live in Dublin, Ireland where they have served with Greater Europe Mission (gemission.org) as disciple and church multiplication practitioners and trainers since 1982. Their heart focus is on loving and reaching those who don't yet know and follow Jesus especially in the Post-Christian and Post-Christendom contexts of Europe. They've served together as church planters, GEM Ireland and Europe regional leaders, and Church Multiplication leaders. Phil is currently an adjunct lecturer at The Irish Bible School in Dublin, and is teaching "Mission In Contemporary Ireland" as part of the IBI B.A. degree program. The Kingsleys grew up in Ventura and were part of the ENCOUNTER (Bible Fellowship Church) family as teenagers and young adults. They have two adult sons, two beautiful daughter-in-laws, and five grandkids.

1. God's Heart For the Nations: Seeing the End Goal Clearly

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. – Matthew 6:9 – 10

... Look God's home is now among His people! He will live with them ... – Revelation 21:3

What is God's Heart for Ireland? (Or to make it local: What is God's heart for Ventura?)

It's another way of asking: What is the mission Jesus calls us into?

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. – Matthew 6:9 – 13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As He finished, one of His disciples came to Him and said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: Father, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation." – Luke 11:1 – 4

KEY QUESTION: How does God's Kingdom advance and spread?

"The biggest obstacle to God's Kingdom is ... my kingdom." – Dallas Willard, (SIX Discipleship Postures: Listening, Asking, Seeking, Serving, Speaking, Connecting)

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2. Hearing & Knowing the Truth is Not the Same As Living the Truth.

I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.

– Luke 6:47 – 48

The only way to grow as a follower of Jesus, is to actually “follow”!

“Shallow Christian identities explain why professing Christians can be racists and greedy materialists, addicted to beauty and pleasure, or filled with anxiety and prone to overwork. All this comes because it is not Christ's love but the world's power, approval, comfort, and control that are the real roots of our self-identity.” – Tim Keller, (The Prodigal Prophet

3. So If You Hear His Voice Today ... ?

What are the next steps? For each person here it may be different.

What does it look like when Jesus words ABIDE / live in us? And what does it look like when they don't?

Some next step suggestions:

Prayerfully ask: “What is Jesus pressing into my heart, into my thoughts right now?”

Ask Jesus: “What does HE want me to do with the truth I'm hearing?”

Share what you hear with another Jesus follower in community.

Be intentional about following.

Feeling A Little Overwhelmed?

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with Me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

– Matthew 11:28 – 30 (The Message)

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OVERWHELMED By Love!

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. May He, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all His holy people. Amen. – 1 Thessalonians 3:12– 13

OVERWHELMED By Hope!

*Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for He who calls you is faithful.”
– 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – 24*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- If you are a follower of Jesus, how do you see and understand the mission field He has placed you in already (where you live, work, play) and how do you understand your role in that mission? (What is your mission? How is that mission going?)
- Imagine for a moment that Jesus walks into your room tomorrow, and says “Come on. I want you to come somewhere with me.” Where do you imagine He might want to take you? Why do you think He would want to take you there?
- Think about one or two of the people in your network of relationships who as far as you know are not following Jesus. Pray and think about one simple way you could deepen your connection with them, encourage them one step closer. (Grab a coffee together. Send a text or email. Go for a walk. Share a meal.)