



-- Introduction –

Big Idea: When God speaks, our mission is submission.

-- Read Psalm 95

-- Pray

-- The key verse is v. 7c-8

-- Describe the context of v. 7-11

-- Exodus 17 – Water from the rock at Massah (“test”) and Meribah (“contention”)

-- Numbers 13-14 – Israel chickens out at Canaan

-- From this verse, Dr. Tom Elliff of the IMB draws three important imperative verbs, which I want to share with you today.

-- If our mission is submission, then we must...

1.) Hear

A. v. 7c – *“Today, if you **hear** His voice...”*

B. Context

1. The Israelites were not listening to God, who had promised to give them the land.

-- Numbers 13:1-2 – *The LORD said to Moses, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”*

2. Above His voice, they believed grumbling and skeptical, and self-focused voices.

- C. In our Psalm, this command comes as the culmination to one of the most compelling calls to worship in Scripture (v. 1-7)
- D. This command comes as the only proper response to the identity and nature of God (v. 3-5, 7)
 - 1. Illustration – Addressing an unruly class as principal of the Christian School.
 - 2. Because of who God is, we ought to be especially attentive to His almighty voice above all others.

2.) Heed

- A. v. 8a – “...do not harden your hearts...”
- B. The entire third chapter of Hebrews addresses this concern.
 - Hebrews 3:12 – “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.”
- C. Why is God so concerned that we do not harden our hearts?
 - Three reasons...*
 - 1. Hardness of heart requires a conscious effort.
 - a. v. 8 – Heart hardening is not something that happens to us; it is something we consciously do.
 - b. Every single time we knowingly fail to obey God’s voice, we are consciously hardening our hearts.
 - 2. It has a cumulative effect.
 - a. Illustration – Our hearts become callused in the same way our hands do.
 - b. The Israelites did not suddenly decide to disobey God when presented with the Promised Land; they had acquired hardness of heart through a pattern of disobedience and grumbling.
 - 3. It yields a common response.
 - a. This common response is saying “no” to God.
 - b. *Are you responsive to God’s voice, or has your heart become hard?*

3.) Hurry

- A. v. 7c – “**Today**, if you hear his voice...”
- B. Illustration – Obedience to be “All the way, right away, with a happy heart.”
- C. Context
 - 1. The window of opportunity had passed. (Numbers 14:40-45)
 - 2. An entire generation missed their mission.
 - 3. Elliff – “Every day we fail to submit to God’s mission for our lives gives us one more day to repent of and one less day to repent in.”

What, then, is our mission as people of God serving Him at First Baptist Church of Carmi?

First it is to “reach out,” which means that we joyfully serve others for the glory of God. Is God calling you to reach out to your neighbors and invite them to church? Hurry! Is God calling you to use your time and talents to serve in the church? Hurry! Is He telling you that you need to start using your money for God’s purposes and not your own or calling you to step off of the sidelines and get in the game? Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

The second part of our mission is “welcoming in,” which means that we love each other deeply with the love of Christ. Is God convicting you to stop criticizing others and start blessing them? Hurry! Is God telling you to start spending less time with the TV and more time with your family? Hurry! Is He calling you to join this church, or join a Sunday School class or entertain guests in your home? Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!”

The third aspect of our mission in Christ is “building up,” which means that, with God’s help, we strive to become the people God created us to be. Thus, is God urging you to read and study your Bible? Hurry! Is He commanding you to devote more time and thought to prayer? Hurry! Is He calling you to memorize Scripture, or listen more carefully to the sermon? Hurry! Is His voice saying to you, “*Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourself; do what it says?*” Well then hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Finally, we are called to “send forth,” which mean that we humbly, yet boldly, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Is your heart breaking for people who do not know Jesus Christ? Is God providing you with opportunities to witness to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers? Hurry! Is God convicting you that you need to give to missions, to pray for missions, to go on a mission, or even to become a missionary yourself? Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your heart!” Today! Today!

D. Nowhere do we need to hurry more than in evangelism and missions.

-- Dr. Anderson’s story about the man who received Christ at a revival and was found the next day

-- Sea of unreached people and people-groups around the world.