

2016 Readiness Check!

Part 4 “Who’s Voice Are You Willing to Hear?”

BEGINNING THE YEAR WITH A READINESS CHECK FOR MINISTRY! WE ARE ALL SOLDIERS IN THE WARFARE FOR MEN’S SOULS AND THAT MEANS WE SERVE IN UNCIVILIZED TERRITORY FOR THE ONE WHO HAS CALLED US! “WE WANT TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING AND *IN EVERYTHING*; WORDS, ACTIONS, WHATEVER... WE WANT TO RESPOND IN HIS NAME... SIGN OFF WITH HIS NAME...

Ready... *We know who we are...* Soldiers in His army, battling for the souls of men! ***And how we prepare/train!*** Worship attentively! Read steadily and studiously! Serve exemplary! Give consistently! Forgive Father-ly! Connect relationally... so that we are fine with... ***“whatcha’ doin?”***

We want to know who we are and what we’re to do... We also want to understand our times and know how to respond! Walked thru an active shooter plan! Weird times we are living in, but helpful to remind us to... Protect passionately! “No greater love than to lay down life for our friends!”

Today! *Half of today’s journey is how I “got ready” for today!* As I was waking Monday morning... Asking/begging for today’s msg... Just before I asked, today’s topic was rolling in my mind as a Monday devo... “Duh’s” with God are never condemnatory but funny! “What ABOUT that?”

I don’t normally ask for my messages, I wait... to hear... If they come early, I realize the week is going to be rough/full! But receiving early and asking early are different things... At the level of life I live with Him... His acquiescence usually comes with a lesson... And you thot maybe...?

Doing my best here to demonstrate the intimate, conversational, relevant, life that we are offered in Christ!

Today’s Message/ministry... Birthed in morning conversation that included... A request... Laughing at myself with Him... Learning in the conversation... Listening to what He’s saying, in conversation... Loving the warmth, comfortable conversation that leads the way! ***Much different than “inner voice!”***

Today! “Where *there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*” Pr 11.14 “Where there is no (tachbulah) steerage, management, guidance and counsel people are (naphal) cast down, divided, even die; but in (rob) abundant, excellent, advice, (yaats) consultation there is (teshua) help, deliverance, salvation and victory!”

Good Counsel! “Even the most prudent men need friends counsel!” –Talmud commentary on this verse... “None but the most conceited among us deem themselves superior to advice!” – Old proverb. “None of us is smarter than all of us!” –Blanchard

“Without counsel, purposes are disappointed, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.” Pr 15.22 “Without (sod) a session, intimate consult, (mahashaba) plans are (parar) broken up, violated, but in (rob) abundant, excellent, advice, of (yaats) consultation they (qum) rise and abide!”

“By wise counsel you make war: and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.” Pr 24.6 “By proper steerage, guidance and counsel you will make the engagement, enter the warfare and in abundant, excellent advice there is help, deliverance, salvation and victory!”

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY: “ARE YOU READY TO HEAR?” AND “WHO ARE YOU ‘WILLING’ TO LISTEN TO?”

Readiness Check! Most aggressive Counselors would be the Bible (Holy Writ)... The Bible speaks to us as we read! It sets the high line for living! **And the Holy Spirit! Unbelievers** confuse Him with “conscience” or “voice of reason.” Can be having a bout with conscience or reason... But many times Spirit of God is wooing and they think, “just me!” **Believers** sometimes miss Him confusing “voice of reason/desire” The difference between VOC, VOR, VOD and the Voice of God... pronouns, tone, directives! Reading after an author and talking to him!

Readiness Check! Second most active voice to hear: spouse! Let's lift our understanding of marriage to whole new level! His/Her voice is often just the *modulated* voice of God! Sounds *familiar*, but often the *content* is God! Not giving anyone the right to manipulate under a guise... But I am revealing the largeness and largesse of God!

God created man and woman to be the completion of each other and often the best earthly counsel we can get comes from the other half of our radar system. How many times have we been blindsided because we were half blind by ignoring “our other half?”

His/Her voice is often just the *modulated* voice of God! “She/He doesn't understand!” They don't have to/only speak! Having a “superior perspective” has got many into trouble! No one has a more superior P.O.V. than God!

Readiness Check! Next level of active voices... Mentors/coaches/Pastors, set by God, for good... Eph4 Rom13.4 Sort thru hundreds of issues, connections... Catalog of assault strategies, weapons of warfare, roadside bombs, bombers, ways of escape... Can help you avoid lots of pain, but only if you trust the structure of God... (*more than them!*) **Peers, friends, active/passive! Prov** Best friends sharing moments! Casual conversations! Stories overheard! Books/articles/TV/movies! Enemies! Shimei Principle! **2Sam16** The Enemy! **Mt4.3ff** “Signs of the Times!” **Mt 16.3**

“HOW READY ARE YOU TO HEAR?” “BECAUSE EVERY ‘NO’ MAKES IT HARDER AND HARDER TO HEAR HIM!

So... Lowest level, we hear and respond to the signs of our times! Headlines tell us we're living in some very odd times... Old “religion” not going to work! **Next level, Enemies!** They can teach us a lot about life! And can “place us,” help us see ourselves, really fast! **Peers!** Share stories of life! We absolutely need a network of people you can talk to and are willing to listen to! **“Dig a well before you thirst...” Mentors/Pastors!** To open the treasures of anointing and experience! “Ministers by whom you believe!” “watching for your souls as those who must give an account!” **Spirit and Word!** *Absolute* truths of our lives with God...

Are we willing to hear and obey? Only way to keep hearing is to obey what He said last... Opening the way to the divine nature given for us... God only asks us to do the things that make for true transformation!

So... World surrounding us... Enemies around us... Peers beside us... Pastors under us... Mates we are joined to... Holy Spirit/Words offered us... **WHAT DO WE HAVE? A grid to tell us who we are listening to!**

Run any topic thru the grid: Sex, money, marriage, child rearing, relationships, whatever... who are we listening to?

“ARE WE WILLING TO HEAR?” “ARE WE WILLING TO OBEY?”