

Forevermore #2 Voices

I. Announcements & Prayer

- 1) **Baptisms** - We will have a Baptism service next Sunday, January 28th during the 11am service. Sign up on The Neighborhood under forms.
- 2) **Baby Dedications** - Do you know of anyone that has a child that they would like to be Dedicated? Next Dedication ceremony will be next Saturday, January 27th, at 4:00pm. Sign up on The Neighborhood under forms.
- 3) **Annual Business Meeting** - Thursday, January 25th, at 6:30pm

II. Ice Breaker Questions

- 1) When you were a child between the ages of 7 and 11 who was your hero?
- 2) Who was the first person in your life to encourage you that you were good at something? What was it? (Example.. My little league coach told me I did a great job. My reading teacher told me I was good at reading.)

III. Discussion Questions

- 1) As a group read **Psalm 125:2** As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

How as God surrounded you this week?

- 2) This past weekend, Pastor talked about the voices in our head. He began by talking about John the Baptist. The Bible says that John the Baptist tried to detour Jesus from being baptized. He indicated that it was backwards. What are some of the common things that keep us from being baptized today? Is there someone you know that you need to encourage to take that step with God? What would have happened of Jesus had not listened to John.

- 3) Read **Matthew 3:15-17** (NIV) ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

What guided Jesus to be baptized? What should guide us to be baptized?

4) Read **Matthew 4:1-7** (NIV) ¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.

Whom is speaking to Jesus in this passage? (Let's be clear the Holy Spirit as well as Satan is speaking to Jesus)

5) How did Jesus respond to Satan? Is it sinful to eat bread? What was behind Jesus' decision to not eat bread?

6) Pastor taught us that God wants to teach us to have discernment, to recognize when it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us and when it is not. Satan always tries to discourage our faithfulness to the living God.

The Apostle Paul in scripture says, "14 ...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV)

Luke 9:23 (NIV) ²³ Then Jesus said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

How do you take up your cross daily in this spiritual battle in your mind? If Satan masquerades as an angel of light, how do you know when he is masquerading?



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