



May 11, 2008

## *Why Do Some Not Hear*

As Christ entered Jerusalem on the eve of his death, he was surrounded by those who desired to kill him. On this occasion Christ called upon God to glorify his name (**John 12.28**). *“Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.”* (**John 12.28**). A concern had arisen amongst the enemies of Christ regarding not only his teachings, but also the fact that he had raised Lazarus from the dead. An event which caused many to believe on Christ. The interesting thing about this event is how those who were there reacted to the sound of the voice which spake. *“The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.”* (**John 12.29**). Such occasions did not happen without purpose and Christ explained, *“This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.”* (**John 12.30**). The appearance of the Messiah, the miracles and the teaching of the Gospel, were all being presented to the people in such a way that they might accept the coming salvation through the sacrifice that was to be made by Jesus for all of mankind. The revelation of these things and the later delivery of the Gospel are all part of God’s plan to bring man to Him and be saved. Why is it that some were unable to perceive the voice which spoke and only heard a noise while others affirmed that an “angel” had spoken? The same question might be asked today. Why is it that some hear the voice of God, recorded in the scriptures, and others do not? Reading the accounts of Christ’s time on Earth reveal that some had a heart that was unwilling to accept the things that were being shown. Others, such as the Pharisees and doctors of the Law, knew that miracles and great things were being done and taught and reacted in anger and fear to the extent that they were willing to plot to kill Christ. God’s word has been revealed in it’s entirety (**2 Pet 1.3**) and indeed has filled the earth. There are still many who do not hear the voice of God in the scriptures. Many turn away in unbelief because they cannot accept the possibility of God and his Son. Others claim to be servants of

God but have been led astray by the various doctrines and interpretations of humans who applied their own thinking to the word, transforming it into something that God never intended. Others believe that God has spoken to them, telling them to practice things that conflict with what the scriptures reveal. Why is this? For those who do not believe at all, the wisdom of the world, rooted in that which can be seen and heard, reject the wisdom of God just as many have done before them. *“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* (**1 Cor 1.21**). Those who believe that God has spoken to them demonstrate a lack of faith in not accepting the written word that has been revealed thus making God a respecter of persons (**Acts 10.34, Rom 2.11**). Then there are the few who believe that the scriptures are what they say they are, the revealed will of the Lord (**2 Tim 3.16**). This is consistent with what Christ stated. *“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (**Matt 7.14**). Those of us who strive to follow the teachings of God’s word are looked upon as being strange. Some might even say that this is cult like thinking to hold to an antiquated text that some believe to be out of step with the times. Given the revelation of God’s word we have clear instruction as to what we are to believe, how to identify the nature of truth and have detailed instructions on how to remain faithful throughout our lives. Why is it then that some do not hear and understand? Could it be that we are too immersed in the thinking of the world and the deceptions that abound? We have a guide, the Bible, why can’t that be accepted? The mind of man, by nature, rejects God when we rely on human reasoning. Only when we sacrifice our own hardness of heart will we hear and understand that God is calling us to salvation.

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