

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I Say to You:
Hearing the
Voice of
God

WEEK TWO



I SAY TO YOU; WEEK TWO

We are in our second week of our new series which is focusing on how God is constantly speaking to us: In Creation, in Scripture, and in the Incarnate Word. We will look at how to understand, receive and respond to Scripture that points to Jesus Christ. Chap is focusing on "Jesus, the Personified Word" and especially honing in on how "all of scripture, the entire Bible, points to Jesus and his reign"

Does he reign over your life?

- What stood out most about Chap's sermon?
- Read John 1:1-5 + Matthew 5:17:
- Why is this happening in the text and what does it mean?
- What specific stands out to you about these two passages



1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome[a] it.



But, though Jesus is never again referred to as the Word of God, we find the theme transposed, with endless variations. The Living Word speaks living words, and the reaction is the same. 'This is a hard word,' say his followers when he tells them that he is the bread come down from heaven (6.60). 'What is this word?', asks the puzzled crowd in Jerusalem (7.36). 'My word finds no place in you,' says Jesus, 'because you can't hear it' (8.37, 43). 'The word I spoke will be their judge on the last day', he insists (12.48) as the crowds reject him and he knows his hour has come. When Pilate hears the word, says John, he is the more afraid, since the word in question is Jesus' reported claim to be the Son of God (19.8). Unless we recognise this strange, dark strand running through the gospel we will domesticate John's masterpiece (just as we're always in danger of domesticating Christmas), and think it's only about comfort and joy, not also about incomprehension and rejection and darkness and denial and stopping the ears and judgment. Christmas is not about the living God coming to tell us everything's all right. John's gospel isn't about Jesus speaking the truth and everyone saying 'Of course! Why didn't we realise it before?' It is about God shining his clear, bright torch into the darkness of our world, our lives, our hearts, our imaginations, and the darkness not comprehending it. It's about God, God-as-a-little-child, speaking the word of truth, and nobody knowing what he's talking about.



DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP

- What does it mean to you, that God chose to speak to us through creations? Through Scripture? Through the incarnation?
- What do you find is the most important thing about John 1:1-5?
- Does these two texts reflect the relationship between the Father and Jesus?
- When you read Scripture, how do you hear God's voice?
- When you are in creation, how do you hear God's voice? (Thinking of John 1, you cannot help but think of the beautiful sunrise evaporating the darkness!)
- Why does this text matter or how does it relate to your life?

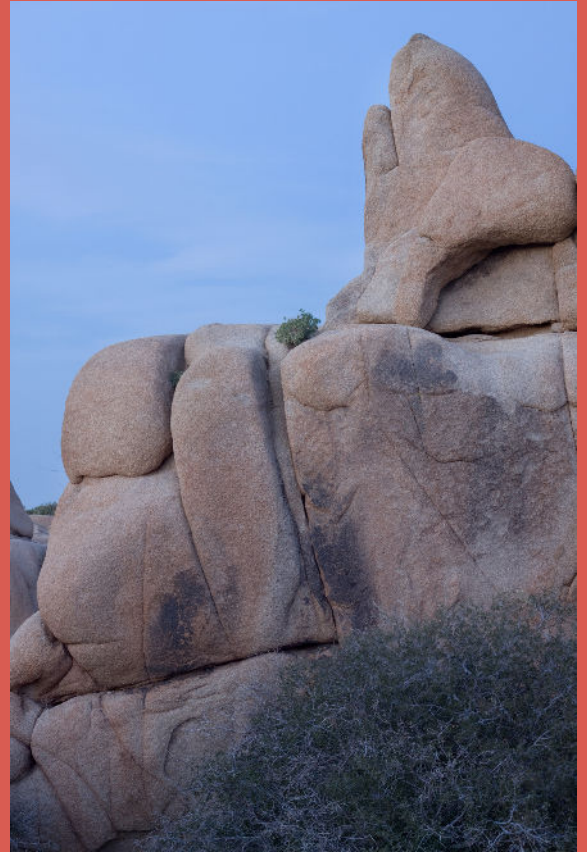
24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, [e] an ephah [f] of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. 25 When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, 26 and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. 27 I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. 28 So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Take a final few minutes to apply this passage to your lives:

- How can you apply this passage and sermon to your life in relation to giving?
- How might God be inviting you to reconsider how you give?
- What does/would extravagant giving look like in your life?



**Here are some online commentaries
you can consider:**

Free:

biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/
blueletterbible.org/study.cfm

Paid:

accordancebible.com
logos.com