



Last night I listened to one of my favorite sermons of all time called, God is the Kindest Person I've Ever Met, by Graham Cooke. I remember the very first time I listened to it, and it's effect on my life. It's amazing the power of words, isn't it? Listening last night I was reminded of what was going on in my life all those years ago, and the revelation I had of God during that time. I considered the Lord's leadership of my life over the last 10 years... and gratitude towards His kindness welled up in my heart. He is surely faithful!

I. THE WORD

A. Sometimes we just need to hear the Word. Jesus knew these verses in Isaiah 61 were about Him.

Luke 4

[20] And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. [21] And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

B. And because we are hidden in Christ, they are also true for us! Listen. More than that... listen and receive.

Isaiah 61

*[61:1] The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
[3] to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
[4] They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
[5] Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;
[6] but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.*



*[7] Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.*

*[8] For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*

*[9] Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.*

*[10] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*[11] For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.*

- C. There is simply no substitute for believing. And there is no way to believe without receiving. And there's no way to receive without resting. You were made to be absolutely great in God. Sometimes we just need to be reminded that the news is in fact Good... and not just good, but exceedingly good.
- D. You see, what you think about God is the most important thing about you. And every time we enter into a transition in our life, we need to take time and update our view of the Lord. There are things that the Lord wants to do in our lives, and our current understanding of the Lord will not allow for it. We need an upgrade for a new season!

2 Corinthians 10

*[4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.
[5] We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...*

- E. Our thoughts of God determine every decision we make. I know that's a bold statement... but I truly believe it to be true. What is God like?

II. WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

- A. Jesus asked His disciples a question... the answer had no bearing on the truth of who Jesus was or wasn't. The answer given changed the disciple.



Mark 8

[27] And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" [28] And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." [29] And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." [30] And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

- B. Who is He to you?
- C. In every season, the Lord isn't simply leading us through circumstances for the sake of tests, He's leading us through circumstances to reveal Himself. He is unchangeable in His love toward us. He will not be moved in His love. Graham says this thing I like, he says that God knows that He is the best thing ever. He knows He's the best thing. He likes being good. He's loving, because He likes being loving. He's kind, because He likes being kind. He's faithful, because He likes being faithful.

Mark 6

[5] And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. [6] And he marveled because of their unbelief.

- D. What we think about God doesn't have any bearing on who He is, but it determines our experience with Him. How important do you think it is to have an accurate view of God? Is Jesus the healer? But in Mark 6, their experience wasn't determined by who Jesus was, but by who they thought He was. This is true of us as well.
- E. We need an upgraded view of God.

III. REAL SECURITY

- A. There is no security in what God is doing... your ministry, circumstances, etc. There is only security in who God is in His character. His nature is unchanging.

Exodus 34

[5] The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. [6] The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, [7] keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Malachi 3

[6] "For I the LORD do not change..."

- B. If you are looking for security in what He is doing you will be endlessly disappointed. We are told in His word that He leads us in a way we do not know. Every story in the scriptures line up with this



truth, and yet we think we are supposed to know. We are supposed to receive the 5-year plan. No! What we can receive is a revelation of who God is!

IV. AN EXAMPLE

Judges 6

[11] Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. [12] And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." [13] And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." [14] And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" [15] And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." [16] And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."

- A. In the midst of Gideon's questions, the Lord doesn't release military strategy. He simply says, "I will be with you." This is THE revelation. It's not to do with cunning, with strength... All of our doing must spring out of all our being with God.

Judges 7

[2] The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' [3] Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

- B. Gideon manages to rally Israel into belief. They are ready to do the word. But the Lord changes the plan. It's not by your numbers... it's by my hand!

[13] When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat." [14] And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp." [15] As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand."

- C. Sometimes we have to get our words in the camp of the enemy. And in the midst of our enemies, the Lord will cause our hearts to worship. The first time Gideon got a word from the Lord he was hiding from the enemy. The second time he received a word he was thumping his chest with his success. The third time he was in the camp of the enemy. Different circumstances... same word.
- D. May we know that the Lord is with us... no matter the circumstance! Let's upgrade our view of the Lord!!