

How can this group support you in prayer this coming week?



The Heart
That Hears
Luke 1:26-38
Mark 14:32-42
Danny Hall • June 9, 2013

The high calling to obedience

The hard challenge of obedience



The Heart That Hears

Luke 1:26-38
Mark 14:32-42

Message-based Group Lesson

Overview

In this week's message, while we will take a special look at the current situation of our church, our focus is not on articulating the challenges or examining solutions. Rather, we want to set a framework for seeking God's solutions and explore how to ask and hear the answer to the question, "What is God doing?" In this month's Bell Tower, Pastor Danny wrote the following:

"This is the question (What is God doing?) that the elders at VCC have begun to ask. We know that the challenges we face are being allowed by God to refine us, to mold us into the people and the church God wants us to be. Rather than simply being problem solvers we are asking God to help us be discerners of His will. We want to learn to listen to how the Spirit is leading us. We want to be aware of anything and everything that He has on His agenda for us. What if God shows us sins to be confessed? Will we be humble enough to do that? What if He shows us he wants us to do some things the way we always have and others in radically different ways? Will we be wise enough to know the difference? What if He shows us we are too focused on ourselves and not enough on loving others? Will we be courageous enough to change?"

To help you think about this take a look at the following two stories from the Bible, one from the life of Mary, and the other from the life of Jesus.

Devotion and discussion questions

1. Read Luke 1:26-38 and Mark 14:32-42. In each story what did they have to release or give up in order to follow their calling? What price did they have to pay?
2. What benefit or blessing came about as a result of their obedience?
3. Read Luke 1:37 and Mark 14:36. How do these statements of God dealing with the impossible both challenge and encourage you?

4. As shown through these stories, Jesus' life began and ended with a surrender of 'self' and a yielding to the will of God. What does this mean for you personally as a follower of Christ Jesus?
5. Take a few minutes to prayerfully consider your life—past, present, and future. What in your life are you holding onto that might hinder your hearing and obeying the Lord and ability to say, "Yet, not what I will, but what you will."

Prayer

1. Spend some time in prayer remembering who God is, giving Him thanks, and asking Him to guide VCC in the directions He would have us go.
2. Pray that as the Body of Christ, we would be able to say, "Yet, not what I will, but what you will."
3. Pray for yourself, asking "What is my role in this spiritual season? What is God asking me to do with my spiritual gifts, my time, my talents, and my resources?"