

THE VOICE

Mark 1:1-20

I hear three distinct voices in this passage: (1) the voice of the John the Baptist crying out in the desert [echoing the voice of the Holy Spirit]; (2) the voice of God the Father at Jesus' baptism; and (3) the voice of Jesus calling his disciples.

**(1) The Wake up call.**

John's ministry was like a wakeup call to sleeping Israel. The last prophet to speak in the name of YHWH was Malachi about 400 years back. Now John's voice was a shock, like a rude awakening, but also refreshing like water in a dry land.

Every year at Passover, the Israelites would retell the story of the great deliverance, especially the crossing of the Red Sea, and how they came out "free" on the other side. John was not just retelling this story, he was enacting it by baptising people with water and setting them "free" in the name of God. He also preached repentance. Repentance means *to make a U-turn; to change perspective; and to change directions.* The 400 years of silence was not so silent. There had been political revolts, false messiahs and prophets, and a lot of wrong directions given. This was a confused and dark period of their history. And John came to lead the way.

John led the way by pointing to Jesus (Mark 1:7-8), the one who is stronger and greater than John; and the one who will use fire of the Holy Spirit to do what John had been doing with water.

If we had been sleeping, what might it take to wake us up? The fire and power of the Holy Spirit. To receive more power of the Holy Spirit, we need to (1) be open, (2) be obedient, (3) be holy.

**(2) The Voice of Reassurance:** *"This is my Son, whom I love, and with whom I am well pleased."*

- Jesus did not go to the Cross to gain his father's approval. He went to the Cross so that we might share in his Son-ship. Therefore, when God looks at believing Christians, he says to us what he said to Jesus His Son.
- The "heaven tore open" to pour out a new reality centering on His love for us. This is our reality: *when we hear all doors slamming in our face, heaven opens to us.*
- *"Jesus...in the wilderness...40 days...with the wild beasts..."* This could be a reference to the Israelites journey for 40 years in the wilderness, where heaven opened to feed them. Or to Daniel in the Lion's den. Or a reference to the New Creation where the lion and the lamb will dwell together without harming each other.
- This world is a tough place. Have we been rejected by the world? Confused? Overwhelmed? We need to hear the reassuring voice of our Father.

**(3) Jesus' Call to the disciples:** *"Follow me"*-two little words that changed history. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Among many, the following features should always be present:

- Is there inward fruit? Following means *being transformed into the image of the one you are following.*
- Outward obedience. The disciple immediately left everything and followed Jesus. There was tangible evidence for their faith and following.
- They allowed Jesus to redefine their profession. We need to allow God to redefine our values and priorities with the new reality he is pouring down upon our lives.

-Kedo Peseyie

# City Church

## SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Rosemary Jamir
- Speaker : Eyingbeni Humtsoe
- Ushers : Hokali Chopy & Holin Limayanger
- Keyboard : Vizalenuo Solo
- Flower : Badeno S Colo

### Call to Worship

### Praise & Worship

- Reading : Psalm 119:113-120
- Special Song : City Church Women Department
- Offertory & announcement
- Bible Reading : Dr. Bilva Yalie
- Message
- Closing Hymn 311 : Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Benediction

### PRAYER

- Pray for all the women in City Church; so that God will continue to use them to bring more vitality and blessings into our church, and into all families in our church.
- Pray for the Committee members/leaders of the City Church Women Department, for wisdom, good health, and God's leading as they plan and work for the church.
- Thank God for **Eyingbeni Humtsoe and her family**. Pray that God will continue to use them to minister to many others in Nagaland and beyond.

## PSALM 119:113-120

I hate double-minded people,  
but I love your law.  
You are my refuge and my shield;  
I have put my hope in your word.  
Away from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commands of my God!  
Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live;  
do not let my hopes be dashed.  
Uphold me, and I will be delivered;  
I will always have regard for your decrees.  
You reject all who stray from your decrees,  
for their delusions come to nothing.  
All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross;  
therefore I love your statutes.  
My flesh trembles in fear of you;  
I stand in awe of your laws.

**Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Tithes: ₹ 1,60,780 Mission: ₹ 7,000 Offering: ₹ 9,890 Building Fund: ₹ 10,000  
Thanksgiving: ₹ 1,000 Nagamese: ₹ 442 Total: ₹ 1,89,112

### INFORMATION

- Enroute Fellowship today at 3pm.
- Wednesday Bible study at 5pm.
- Next Thursday Women's fellowship @ 5pm will be colony wise fellowship.
- Baptism service and Holy Communion with our new member at 7am, on 22nd October (Sunday).

[citychurchkoh@gmail.com](mailto:citychurchkoh@gmail.com), Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

### WOMEN'S RETREAT



Mrs. Eyingbeni Humtso spoke on "The Place of Women in Jesus Teaching" and "Beauty for Brokenness" Mrs. Athem Longkumer gave a talk from a Psychological perspective on "Towards Wholesomeness." More than 40 women attended the women's annual retreat program.

