**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, July 19, 2020**

**Title: Say Yes!**

**Text:**

7  Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,   
8  DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,   
**Hebrews 3:7-8 (NASB)**

**Intro:**

Comparison of the ministry of Moses to Jesus. Moses could not bring the people who came out of Egypt into the promised land. This is because of the unbelief of those who had experienced such an incredible deliverance.

The promised land of the Old Testament is a land of rest and corresponds to salvation in the New Testament. Being made right with God through Jesus Christ is entering into the rest of God.

1. **HEARING GOD IS AWESOME!**

When God’s truth is spoken and we sense our hearts within us being moved.

Hearing God does not mean we are right with God, but rather is an invitation to get right with God.

To understand the purpose behind the sufferings of Jesus on the cross and know it was because of His love.

The call of Jesus to our hearts to leave the paths of sin and follow Him.

In July 2012, a teen was on his way to a flea market in Wentzville, ILL. He was walking the railroad tracks to get there, while listening to music on his earbuds. A freight train comes up from behind him, the engineer is blowing the horn but the young man can’t hear it and sadly, is killed instantly when he is struck by the train. He perished because he couldn’t hear. It is a sad tragedy because the young man was deaf to the warnings.

Because he couldn’t hear he was not protected. God’s voice to us is a voice of protection, mercy and love. It is the engineer laying on the horn with all his might in an attempt to protect life.

When we ignore God voice, it is like putting in headphones and walking the railroad tracks.

1. **THE HEARING CAN BECOME DEAF**

12  Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.   
13  But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.   
14  For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,   
15  while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."   
**Hebrews 3:12-15 (NASB)**

Many years ago, when I was in college I spent a summer working as South East Kentucky Coal in Irvine, KY. One of the jobs was called the ‘Shake Out.’ Very large machinery was lowed onto to the top of coal cars, while doors on the bottom of the car was opened. The machinery would think shake the coal, it would fall through the doors, through the tracks and begin to be processed. It was deafening loud. We had to protect our hearing and wear protection that protected us, so when we went home we could hear our families.

The world is loud and will make you deaf.

The desires of your flesh are loud.

The call of your pride is loud.

The selfish nature of your inner man screams at you.

The temptation to feel sorry for yourself will never let you go.

Every time I give in to sin, it is like taking the hearing protection off and it works to make me deaf to the things of God. As I protect my hearing, though I can learn to hear the soft, smooth voice of the Holy Spirit.

When my wife says my name in a gentle, calling way. Her voice, saying my name cuts through all the clamor around me and I look up to make eye contact with her.

So the Holy Spirit will use His voice to speak your name!

 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.   
**Acts 13:46 (NASB)**

1. **Unbelief says no, Faith says YES!!!!**

1  Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.   
2  For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.   
3  For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.   
4  For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day:* "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS";   
5  and again in this *passage,* "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."   
6  Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,   
7  He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."   
**Hebrews 4:1-7 (NASB)**

When a man makes a wedding proposal to his girlfriend, on one knee with a ring…he looks at her to, hopefully, see the head nodding and a smile breaking out!!!

Not listening to God is called hardening your heart. Like hardening of arteries in the heart it will have disastrous effects.

**ALTAR:**

The remedy to being deaf is to start saying YES to God.

Obey God right now in everything you already know!