

## KEY THOUGHTS

- We all have an intuitive yearning in us to know, with a degree of certainty, how does God communicate with us? How can I hear Him?
- Through the history of God interaction with us, after the Fall in Eden, God has used various means to communicate with us. Except for this last way, there have been limits to these measures. Here is that history and what He has used:
- The Creation: speaking to us through the world He has made.
  - Psalm 19:1-2 and Romans 1:20
  - The Limit: The Creation speaks with unspecific clarity.
- The Symbolic: using specific things to represent truths to us.
  - Exodus 13:21 – God led them in the wilderness with a pillar of fire and a cloud – symbolic of His presence, and yet more than simple symbols
  - Similar to Communion and the elements for us today
  - The Limit: Though clearer, Symbols can be impersonal.
- The Representatives: using spokespeople (prophets) to speak what He has told them
  - Hebrews 1:1a
  - Like a game of “Telephone”, except the prophets were keenly accurate
  - Luke 20:9-12 – Jesus uses illustration to clarify the limit of the prophets
  - The Limit: Representatives lacked authority in the eyes of people
- The Word: a step deeper than the prophets, a record of what He has told us
  - Psalm 119, especially v.1,45,89,105,165 highlight the wonder of God’s word to us
  - The Limit: God’s Word is as good in communication as it’s supposed to be, but not as good as it gets.
- Once again, God went further.
- Himself – Jesus came Himself
  - Hebrews 1:1-3 – the limits of communication are now taken away!
  - This is exactly how we hear God
- “But we don’t have Jesus now, so how can we hear God?”
  - The words, life, attitudes, influence of Jesus live on.
  - Ephesians 1:13-14 – we also have the Holy Spirit as a down payment, deposit of what complete interaction with God will be like
- The presence of God in our lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit and the life of Jesus is game-changing!

## SCRIPTURES

- Psalms 19:1-2
- Romans 1:20
- Exodus 13:21
- Hebrews 1:1-3a
- Luke 20:9-12
- Ephesians 1:13-14

## PRACTICAL & REFLECT

- Do I look to the ministry of Jesus to find my best understanding of what God is like?
- Do I lean toward Jesus to get my direction and leading of what God would ask of me?
- Do I appreciate how much better we now have it?