



Men's Discipleship Class – Week 7
November 1, 2018

Verses:

Daniel 9:22-23

Acts 8:26, 29-30

Hebrews 13:2

Genesis 37:5-6

Matthew 2:12

Acts 10:3-4

Acts 16:8-9

Acts 11:27-28

Acts 9:15-17

Mark 6

1 Kings 19:9-14

Romans 10:17

Luke 24:25-32

Joshua 1:9

We looked last week at the fact that we are going to pray properly. We have to have his list not our list. We do not come in with what we want. We come in and pray what he wants. Obviously the next question is: How does he speak to us?

I want to walk over three or four things in the Bible that are kind of extreme. They are ways he speaks. I then want us to look at the main core of how he is going to speak to you in your life. Number one. Slide over to the book of Daniel. Chapter 9. The first way he is going to speak to you at times is through angels. There is an interesting thing we are going to see in the New Testament. I want you to listen first to Daniel 9:22-23. Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos... Here is what he says. Matter of fact, go up to verse 20.

*20*While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God, *21*while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. *22*He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. *23*At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore, consider the word and understand the vision.

Obviously, we have Gabriel here. He is an angel that was sent. One of the things we will look at and talk about in one session is angels and another demons. When we look at it, we will see that it took three weeks for Gabriel to get to Daniel. Michael finally has to come and fight some demons off to get him to Daniel. You clearly have in the Old Testament an angel speaking to Daniel. You say yes, but that is the Old Testament.

I want you to look at something unusual. Look at the book of Acts 8:26-29. We will not go there, but in Hebrews 13:2, it says:

for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

In Alabama, we think that is Nick Saban. You little Aggies do not laugh at much, do you? So at any rate, look at this. Remember, Philip is in this big revival in Samaria. He now winds up in a desert road. Here is why.

26Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

Then drop down to verse 29.

29And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30So Philip ran to him

So you have here this interesting thing. You have an angel and you have the Holy Spirit. At the very same moment, both of them speak to Philip. Did he know it was an angel? We do not know. All we do know is that the Bible records that an angel spoke to him and then also the Holy Spirit spoke to him at the same instance. Obviously, what happens here in Daniel is not necessarily negated by the Holy Spirit being in your life. There may come in your life a combination that you hear him by.

Number 2, Go to Genesis. The first book. Let me address what I inevitably hear. Now will say this in here. If you repeat this, I will call you a complete liar publically by name in the service. But, women do this way more than men. They get a lot more dreams than men do. I want you to listen to Genesis 37:5-6. We are going to cover a little bit here. Listen to what he says.

5Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. 6He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 7Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." 8His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

First of all, they should not have told his brothers. That was his first mistake. Here is the interesting thing. It is his dream, but they immediately understand it. He understands it. It is clear to both him and them. Alright? So, there is a dream here. It has great clarity to everybody. They do not sit and look at him and ask what it means. Now. You do have the passages where the pharaoh has this dream and Joseph comes in to interpret it for him.

Generally, when you have an interpretation of a dream in the Old Testament, it is a tool God uses to use his people. It is not the means by which he generally speaks. Now, he does speak in dreams. I want to show you a consistency that is across. Go to Matthew 2 so that we understand this. We do not want to miss this and go nuts. Matthew 2:12.

12And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

So you have a clarity here. He has a dream, and there is no interpretation to it. It says to get out of there. Now look at Acts 10. There is a little bit of distinction maybe between a trance and a dream. There is enough similarity that I think we will put them in the same category. Acts 10:3-4. Listen to what he says.

3About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

You have a combo here. Now look at Acts 16:8-9. You saw this last week. As a repeated thing, look. He makes a statement here.

8So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

A 'vision appearing to Paul in the night' could have been a dream. So, you have these dreams or visions that he speaks through. I want us to be clear here. They are always clear. There is never a need for interpretation. If you have a dream and you do not know what it means, let me tell you this. It does not mean anything. It is bad pizza. It is an Aggie loss or an Alabama loss to Auburn and the preacher has resigned the church. There are different things. If you do not know what it means, it is just a weird thing. If there is deep clarity with it, then you are in the ballgame. He can speak through dreams. When he does, it is going to be all the way across clear. You see it in the New Testament as well as the Old Testament. You see it hear even after the coming of the Holy Spirit. You might could argue no Holy Spirit here or here, but you clearly have the Holy Spirit here. Yet, God still speaks in a vision. He can and will do that.

He will speak through other people. Go to Acts 11. We will look at Acts 11:27-28. Listen to what it says.

27Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

Now slide over to Acts 9:15-17.

15But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

This is God sending Ananias to Paul. So, you have these two places where it clearly states that God sends Ananias to Paul. Even though Paul has just met Jesus, he has heard Jesus' voice when he gets saved. Yet, he sends a man to speak to him after he speaks to him directly. He does the same thing here. He sends Agabus. He prophecies. So, God will sometimes use other people.

You need a checkmark here. Okay? Here is my rule of thumb. If somebody wants to come in and tell me something, I generally do not trust them. There are people who love to speak into your life when really they have no business speaking. You have to be careful when you deal with other people. As a pastor, one of the first things you discover when you pastor any size church is that you have all of these people that came up. They all have a pastor they liked. They will want you as a pastor to conform to the pastor they liked. They will evaluate you that way. They will speak into your life that way. I have learned to ignore those people. I remember I had been here about four or five months. It was back in the old church. It was a summer day. It was hot. It was a Sunday night. I have a full suit on because in those days you had to do that. I am tired. I take my jacket off. I did not strip down naked on the podium. I took the jacket off. The next week the chairman of deacons gets a phone call. "I cannot believe Bro. Chris took his jacket off while he was preaching." Now the chairman of deacons had the best response. He said that he did not know me well. Then he replied, "If that was the worst thing he does while he is here, we are probably going to be in good shape." So, you want to be careful when other people speak into your life. If they come with a little trepidation, I am probably going to listen to them. If they seem to enjoy busting my chops, I am not going to have much patience with them. You have to be careful.

Now, we will not go here but, sometimes God will speak to you through circumstances. If you remember Mark 6, we have Jesus walking on the water. There is moment of circumstance that occurs in their life. It does speak to them. There are times when circumstances will speak to you. I remember in Midland that I had a young man named Lynn Parker. He was making a tremendous amount of money in the oil field. The oil field guys came to him and said to Lynn, who was an honest guy and was having trouble selling oil field chemicals, because he was struggling to compete. Any of you guys in the oil field business will understand this. The other companies were sweetening the pot with alcohol. He would not do that. Finally, his boss came to him and told him to put it on the table because we are not competing, or you are gone. Lynn chose the high road. He stood in Christ. He resigned and refused to do that. He wound up teaching school. Those of you who teach school know they went from \$180,000 per year to \$30,000 per year. His wife was a stay-at-home mom. They were making nothing. They had to sell their house and live in a trailer. I will never forget that he came to me about a year or two later. He told me he did not think he was called to be in the oil field but that now he absolutely loved teaching. God used him in the lives of the kids he taught. That circumstance of losing the job put him where God wanted him to be. Sometimes the circumstances do it.

We are going to be careful here. This is the main way he is going to speak to you. Let me walk you through this so that we do not get out of here and you have some weird feeling and you slap your wife. Let us just be clear. Here we go. He is going to speak to you through mainly the Holy Spirit inside your heart. You see this in scripture where you have an angel and the Holy Spirit. Now. I am going to give you this term. Okay? A 'holy hunch'. There is your best description. John Bisagno said that at First Baptist Houston. You are going to have feelings, thoughts, and impressions that are going to guide you inside. This is generally going to be the Holy Spirit speaking to you. It is just going to be a holy hunch. I think I ought to do this. Now.

Look at 1 Kings 19. This is generally how it is going to come. 1 Kings 19:9-14. Elijah has just killed 450 prophets of Baal. He is living where he is supposed to be. He is doing exactly right. Jezebel sent word. He was not afraid of Ahab. He is a wise man so he is afraid of the wife. He packs out. Look at what happens.

9There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant,

thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 11And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

It is intriguing here. You have these three moments of a loud, great thing. When it gets dead silent, Elijah hears this low whisper. He recognizes the whisper, and he steps out. I really think this is one of the key things. I think God for the most part through the Holy Spirit is going to speak to you in a low whisper through feelings, thoughts, and impressions from the inside out which are basically kind of a holy hunch. We talked about this. He is generally not going to be loud. There are two guys he is loud with in the Bible. Who are they? Moses. Right? Burning bush. That is pretty loud. Who is the next guy he is loud with? Paul. Paul actually sees him on the road to Damascus. It blinds him. Those are both loud things. Where is Moses when it is loud? Anybody know? Where is he? He is in the desert. Why? He had killed someone. Where is Saul? He is going to kill Christians. He has killed others. He watched Stephen’s brains bashed out by rocks and loved it. He held the coats for everyone. He said to get him. You have two guys who are not where they are supposed to be, and all of a sudden, God is loud. My own call was loud, because I was not where I was supposed to be. Since then, I have never had a loud moment with God. Since my call, everything else has been here. I think this is going to be the key.

Here is how it works. Go to Philippians 4. Listen to what he says. Philippians 4: 6-7.

6do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

So, you have peace. Obviously, if you do not have peace, the next thing is going to be opposite which is going to be unrest. He says if you are walking well and your prayer life is good, God will give you a peace about where you should be. It will guard your heart from going to the wrong affection. It will guard your mind from making the wrong decision. Your heart is guarded. That is literally the Greek word here in Philippians 4. Φρουρήσει phrouresei was used for guarding a prison. The peace of God will guard your heart from having an affection the wrong way. It will guard your mind from choosing the wrong direction. Obviously, if you do not have peace and have unrest, these two things, this polarity, will guard your mind and your heart. This is how the Holy Spirit is going to do it. He is going to give you a feeling, thought, or impression of peace. He will give you an unrest to either keep you from going where you are not supposed to go or give you a peace to direct you where you are supposed to go with your heart and your mind.

This is difficult, but this is what he is going to do. I had been here I guess maybe one month. I finished a sermon. We had one service at 11 AM. I went home. I just had this odd unrest that I should not be here in Bryan. I had this tremendous unrest that something was wrong. That was my assumption. I went to the office that afternoon and began to pray. I really was thinking out of this that I was going to have to call Midland and tell them that I had made a bad mistake and should not

be in Bryan and ask to come home. I began to have this peace that I was supposed to fly back to Midland and talk to my best friend in the ministry. Dennis is one of my two best friends in the ministry and was pastoring at First Baptist Stanton. The peace kind of settles on me. I go home and tell my wife. At this time, we do not have any money. I tell my wife. She knows Dennis and I are best friends. We are huge golf partners. I have to tell her that even though we do not have any money I want to fly to Midland and see my golf partner. I am waiting for the 'no', but my wife looks at me and says 'okay, you need to go'. I do not know why I am going. On the plane to Midland, God told me two things. He spoke to me and said that Dennis was in love with another woman who was not his wife and you are going to be his Nathan. I get to Midland on Wednesday afternoon. I called in and said I was in town and wanted to see him after church tonight. He agreed. That was the whole conversation. His wife comes in the room and asks who was on the phone. He tells her it was me. She assumed I was coming to encourage Dennis. Dennis replied that I was coming to be his Nathan. I meet him after church. Dennis was a big Italian guy. I said, 'Listen man. I may be nuts, but God told me you are in love with another woman who is not your wife. We have got to fix it.' He looked at me and told me that yesterday he would have thrown me out but that I was right. We get on the phone together. I make him call the lady on the speaker phone and tells her that he was in love with her but that was wrong and he needed to love his wife. We go back home and begin to talk to his wife. Ultimately, at that point, the marriage was healed. It did not work down the road about ten years later. At this point, he fixed his home. I had a deep unrest that I could not explain. The peace showed me the direction. I think that is the main way he is going to speak to you.

It is interesting. I know you are not going to know this but trust me on this for a minute. There are two Greek words for word in the New Testament. There is rhema (ῥῆμα in Greek), and there is logos (λόγος in Greek). All synonyms bleed into each other. I am not going to get into an argument over that, but they do bleed into each other. For the most part, rhema is a spoken word and logos is a written word. They do bleed into each other, but there is a little bit of a distinction. I think this is how God works the Word into your life. Look at Romans 10:17. Let me show you something.

[17So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.](#)

When he talks about the word of Christ here, he uses rhema not logos. He says your faith comes from the spoken word about Christ. That is your faith comes when the Holy Spirit verbally speaks to you as in John 16 where he says the Holy Spirit will convince the world about sin, righteousness, and judgement. If you are not saved, you will never have faith until the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart the truth about Jesus Christ. I always grew up thinking this was a reference to the written word of God. It is not. You can read the Bible all day long, and it does not create faith. The Holy Spirit speaking to your heart, creates the ability to believe, and then you possess it. So. The interesting thing and exactly the case is also the case with us. Look at Luke 24. Slide over to Luke 24:25-32. You have two guys walking with Jesus. They do not know it is Jesus. It is after the resurrection. They are talking to him like Jesus does not know what has been happening. You have got to love these guys. They were obviously bad.

[25And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. 28So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,29but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and](#)

broke it and gave it to them. 31And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

When Jesus opens up the scriptures, he is doing logos. He is opening up the written word of God. He is going through Isaiah 53, Hosea 7:14, and Psalm 22. He is covering all sorts of Old Testament scriptures. Genesis 3. He is showing in the written word who he is. When they make the statement in verse 32 and say ‘didn’t our hearts burn within us’, I think that is the rhema. He took that word and burned it into their heart. When these two things connect in your life, when there is a rhema and a logos, that is where you hear a lot of times. I do not know if you have experienced this. If you read the Bible enough, you will find some days that all of a sudden one verse will literally jump off the page and slam you. That is when these two things are connecting. When the Holy Spirit is taking that word and personalizing it for you. I bought this in Israel this year. It is my second ever rhema/logos moment. It is Joshua 1:9.

9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

I was preaching the second time I ever preached. The first time went really well. I was terrified. I preached. It was great. So. What happens when God uses you the first time? How do you go into the pulpit the second time? Cocky. So I go into the pulpit. I got it. I preach. I will never forget this. I was at First Baptist Church, Tylertown, Mississippi. I bombed completely. The embarrassing thing in college was they had BSU teams that they would send out. They put four people in a group. Each team included a preacher, a song director, somebody giving their testimony, and somebody playing the piano. This is oddly enough how I met Peggy. We are going out. It was not on this day that Peggy was with me, but I preached and I bombed. Now that afternoon I am talking to God and going ‘obviously, I missed the call here’. I am at Mississippi College. I need to go back to Alabama and get a degree where I can actually make a living. This was what all the guys that knew me told me when I was called to preach at First Baptist Slidell. I had more than one guy come up to me and say that I might should think about going to Alabama and getting a degree in case this preaching gig does not work out. So. That afternoon I am praying hard. Again, I have shared with you before that I am terrified in front of people. Now that I have failed in front, I am doubly terrified. I am reading in Joshua. I come to Joshua 1:9.

9Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Those words were no longer just words on the page. They jumped off the page on me. I stood in the pulpit that night a far different man than I was when I walked in that morning. God blessed. It was a great night. This on my finger is my second rhema and logos moment. He can speak to you through a lot of different things. I think this is the key of how he is going to do it primarily. It is going to be a holy hunch. Again, you always confirm every holy hunch with the scripture. You do not ever let a holy hunch disagree with the scripture. I think this is primarily how he is going to do it. There will be times where rhema and logos come together and absolutely impact your life.

Let me ask you to do something. You are supposed to be meditating on Colossians right now. Right? For this month? I want you to ask God as you meditate on this scripture by reading one chapter a day. It will not take five minutes to read the chapter. You are going to process that chapter during the day. You are going to ask God to do this in your life. God bring a rhema and logos moment to me so that the word absolutely settles in my soul.