

I Need A Shoebox

"I need a shoebox," my middle son, Josh, announced on the way to school one morning.

"Okay, sweetie," I replied. "We'll get you a shoebox."

"I need a shoebox."

"I know. I heard you. We'll get you a shoebox."

"Do you have a shoebox?"

"Are you asking me if I have a shoebox with me right now?"

"I need a shoebox."

"Josh, I do NOT have a shoebox in my purse or in our van. We will get you a shoebox. When do you need the shoebox?"

"Yesterday."

"Yesterday?!"

"I told you that I needed a shoebox."

"You did? When?"

"When you were sleeping."

Sometimes we don't communicate too well with each other, do we?

On the other hand, Jesus is a clear communicator. Actually, He's perfect at it. Jesus uses His Word, His life, people, nature, circumstances, prayer, and anything He wants to communicate to us His deep love and His desire to have a personal relationship with each one of us on our journey with Him. How come we sometimes miss the messages?

Sometimes we have preconceived notions of what Jesus should tell us so we don't expect Him to communicate with us in certain ways. Sometimes we don't like what we hear. Sometimes we refuse to listen. Sometimes we don't recognize what He is communicating to us. Sometimes our selfish and sinful ways add static to the message. Sometimes He whispers. Sometimes He's silent. Sometimes we missed the message because we weren't even looking for it.

We are in the midst of the church season of Lent. Lent is a season of opportunity—a daily opportunity to be in God's word, to be in prayer, to repent our sins, to look intentionally for Jesus in all things, and to surrender our lives to His leading. All of this prepares our hearts and minds to listen as Jesus communicates to us by His death and resurrection that we need a Savior and He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Proverbs 8:34 reminds us that we don't want to be asleep when God is daily speaking to us.

"Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors."

"Blessed is the one who listens to me." God blesses those who surrender to the act of listening. Listening to God especially within His Word, may catapult us into action or keep us still.

"Watching daily at my gates." We are to be alert and aware—watching daily for Jesus' leading in all things.

"Waiting beside my doors." We are to be close to Jesus, expectant and patient—waiting for Him to open the doors.

God is the *perfect* communicator. Let us daily listen, watch, and wait for Jesus' voice. *Postscript:* Josh did get a shoebox because his very wise teacher had extra ones. Praise Jesus for Mrs. Bowman!

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