

Bethels Global Reach Sunday School- Facilitator: Pastor Holman  
September 11, 2011

Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I. **Our Obligation and Our Orders**

- a. **1 Corinthians 9:16** Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
- a.i. **“When” I preach the “Gospel”** the emphasis is on when **NOT** if!
  - a.ii. So it is a mandate to communicate
  - a.iii. Paul also tells us what we are to **Preach** (The Gospel) [The Good News]!
  - a.iv. In doing so we CANNOT boast!
    - a.iv.1. **Boast means:** to speak with exaggeration and excessive pride, especially about oneself
  - a.v. In our “preaching” the gospel boasting must never be found in our speech!
  - a.vi. Paul tells us the reason for his preaching: HE IS COMPELLED!
    - a.vi.1. Compelled means: to (a) force or drive especially to a course of action.
  - a.vii. Lastly Paul tells of the consequences of NOT preaching this GOSPEL!
    - a.vii.1. Woe~ which is a very strong word used to describe the consequences of NOT preaching this life changing Gospel
    - a.vii.2. Woe- Means grievous distress, affliction or trouble!
  - a.viii. **This is what Paul said:** “AT THE TIME I PROCLAIM (SHOUT WITH CONVICTION) THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS, I CAN NOT PRIDE MYSELF BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF THE MESSAGE BECAUSE I AM FORCED BY A DIVINE DRIVE TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL! I EXPECT GRIEVOUS DISTRESS AND AFFLICTION MIXED WITH TROUBLE IF I DO NOT PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST

II. **Our Fears of Fulfilling Our Orders**

- a. Matthew 26:58,69-75 **But Peter followed him at a distance**, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards **to see the outcome**.
- a.i. Before we throw Peter under the bus. Ask yourself what would you have done?
  - a.ii. This was very hostile time: a man is about to be crucified, the high priests are rounding anyone who is associated with him who could quite possibly face the same fate!
    - a.ii.1. **Question: how would have handled that hostile situation?**
- b. vv69-75 Now Peter was sitting **outside in the courtyard**. A **servant-girl** came to him and said, **‘You also were with Jesus the Galilean.’** <sup>70</sup>But he **denied it before all of them**, saying, ‘I do not know what you are talking about.’ <sup>71</sup>When he went out to the porch, **another servant-girl** saw him, and she said to the bystanders, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ <sup>72</sup>**Again he denied it with an oath**, ‘I do not know the man.’ <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, **‘Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.’** <sup>74</sup>**Then he began to curse and he swore an oath, ‘I do not know the man!’** At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>**Then Peter remembered** what Jesus had said: ‘before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.’ And he went out and wept bitterly
- b.i. Peter was sitting OUTSIDE the courtyard. (remember the trial is taking place INSIDE the courtyard)
  - b.ii. A “servant” girl probably a (gentile) 13 or so years old and identified Him as a disciple of Christ
  - b.iii. Notice V30 he did just DENY it, but he denied it before ALL OF THEM!

- b.iv. Finally v74 To get his point across even more he began to swear, and publicly disowning Christ!
- b.v. AT THAT MOMENT “HE REMEMBERED”
- c. **Peter PUBLICLY denied Christ!**
  - c.i.1. Question: can you recall a time when you **publicly** denied Christ?
  - c.i.2. Question: can you recall a time when you have **PRIVATELY DENIED CHRIST?**
  - c.i.3. Privately remember (NOT TO SPEAK is TO SPEAK! NOT TO ACT is TO ACT!
  - c.i.4. Think about the times you have kept silent when you know you should have said something!!

### III. **Our FEAR is OVERCOME BY FAITH!**

- a. **Acts 5:27-32** The apostles were brought in and made to appear **before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest.** <sup>28</sup> “We gave you **strict orders** not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” <sup>29</sup> **Peter** and the other apostles replied: “**We must obey God rather than human beings!**” <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup> We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”
  - a.i. This same Peter just a few weeks before had completely denied Christ!
  - a.ii. Now he is standing in the Sanhedrin (the most powerful place in Jerusalem) before the High Priests many of which were responsible for killing Jesus!
  - a.iii. They had been commanded NOT to speak in this name!
  - a.iv. If there was ever a time that Peter should have kept silent it would have been here!
  - a.v. But notice his response “he boldly declared” he did not hold back his tongue!
  - a.vi. When it was time to speak- he SPOKE!
    - a.vi.1. Question: do you have enough faith, courage, conviction to speak EVEN when it is very unpopular?
    - a.vi.2. Will you speak up even if it offends?
    - a.vi.3. Peter shows us a very valuable lesson about when we have been truly converted our FAITH OVERCOMES OUR FEARS!

#### **Conclusion:**

**What have you kept silent about?**

**What has God called you to be vocal about?**

**Who has God called you to speak to?**

**Will you allow fear to grip you from obeying the command of God**