

Deacon Tom Homilies  
**HEARING GOD SPEAK TO US**

**MONDAY 08/21/06**

The pastor asked me to prepare to preach all this week. And so I extracted every reading from the Catholic Bishop's website... I printed some nine pages off and spent time praying and reading them... looking for some common theme or issue that would make for a week of topic...

Right or wrong – what seemed an emerging idea was that many of the readings had to do with God speaking to mankind... or God's Word manifesting itself in one way or another. This led me to question myself... and thence to question you... Does God speak to you? I don't mean a 'burning bush' voice speaking to you... but do you have any confidence that you are hearing God's Word and will for you? If your answer is 'YES' – that's just wonderful... and what a great gift. If your answer is "NO" – what do you think this means?

If you are not hearing or discerning God in some way or another – do you believe that God doesn't want to speak to you? Or do you believe that God doesn't speak to us ordinary mortals? Or are you the sort of Christian who believes that dialogue with God is one way... that we have to continually speak to God -- and that He never wants to communicate with us?

In today's reading from Ezekiel – there are these thoughts: "The word of the LORD came to me..." And then, a few verses later: "Thus says the LORD..." The Scripture writer is sharing with us that God does speak with mankind... but again... I go back to you... is God speaking to you in any manner that you can identify?

Deacon Tom Homilies  
**HEARING GOD SPEAK TO US**

2

Of course, the Gospels have the words of Jesus. We know these to be the word of God... So you could reply that that is how God speaks to you.... And that would be correct. But what if you don't read the Gospels on your own... or you don't pay that much attention at Mass? That you don't meditate upon the Gospels.... does that mean that God has no other way of trying to communicate with you?

On Tuesday and Wednesday– more from Ezekiel will be read: “The word of the LORD came to me.... And the enjoiner to ‘hear the word of the LORD...” And on Thursday we will hear that God uses or can use others to speak to us... and God can show us in spirit what he wants us to know or see. So we must be open... we must be prayerful – and often we need to be silent to hear God... for us to be able to have dialogue with God.

You know – it was in about late 1997 or 1998, when an organization started a movement putting billboards on busy highways... billboards that have messages attributed to God... Behind the clever campaign was the desire most of us have to want to hear God's voice... to know what He wants of us in these days. I started seeing these billboards in Florida – I think that's where they began... but they've spread all over – and there was a new campaign rolled out in 2005.

Who knows but what God hasn't allowed Holy Inspiration to spawn those billboards... Billboards with sayings such as:

Deacon Tom Homilies  
**HEARING GOD SPEAK TO US**

3

“If you must curse – use your own name.” Signed: God. (And)

“The real Supreme Court meets up here.” Signed: God.

I want to start the week with some ideas related to us hearing God in our lives. Here are some starters for us: Most certainly, God spoke every necessary word through Jesus.... So the Bible is a most wonderful place to go and ask God’s Spirit to communicate with us. In addition, **God speaks** through the voice of conscience, through other parts of Holy Scriptures other than the Gospels, through the Church and the Sacraments... through our feelings, and even positive urgings ... **God speaks** to us through his creation... through people (pope, bishop, priest, prophets). **God speaks** through your neighbor or even through a deacon. The great philosopher and writer C. S. Lewis wrote that: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

There are some experiences that I’ve had that I truly feel were Godly communications – May God have mercy if I am wrong or exaggerating. If you haven’t heard from God --- I would ask you to pray about this – to ask to be open to God’s voice in your heart. The experiences of the saints tell us that God is a passionate lover who wants to communicate with us... We just need to be open to these moments and experiences. Consider this: If you want to hear from God, it's possible you are hearing Him already, for He may be the One giving you the very desire to hear Him.