**Hearing God While We Are Alive**

*25 “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (John 5:25-29, ESV)*

 The voice of God needs to be heard now – because it is a life-or-death issue.

 Greetings dear brothers and sisters as we continue today to hear Jesus’ words recorded in the Gospel of John. God’s voice is an indispensable reality in our lives – thus, its importance is a subject that we cannot avoid discussing. Jesus’ words take place in a context of believing and judgment. Therefore, today’s subject is “hearing God’s voice” and its importance in our lives. Again, the voice of God needs to be heard now (in this life), because it is a life-or-death issue. Let’s see how that is…

 To hear God’s voice means to completely devote oneself to Jesus Christ. Last Sunday we spoke about the invalid who was on his mat for 38 years. He believed and was healed – a foreshadowing of the salvation of the Lord. Afterwards, when he betrayed Jesus, the Jewish religious leaders persecuted Jesus with the goal of killing Him. But Jesus’ mission was not His own anyway, since He was doing the Father’s will. This was why His mission and the Father’s revelation about Him could be considered as one and the same. Thus, whoever heard Jesus’ words and believed the Father would not be subject to condemnation. The hearer is the one who accept Christ’s salvation, but that must take place in this life. At the Final Judgment, the right to judge belongs to Jesus, because He is to be honored just as people used to honor God the Father.

 This authority is like that of an ambassador in a foreign country. Whatever he or she commands or declares is accepted as the declaration or instructions of the country he or she represents. The ambassador has unilateral authority to do so on behalf of the country represented.

Today, both within the church as well as among the general public, there is a serious problem with those suffering from spiritual deafness. People are obeying all kinds of voices. They are devoting themselves to all kinds of “missions”, and yet the primary, most vital voice is either not being heard, or is being relegated to a lower priority. Jesus’ voice of salvation, despite its being preached and proclaimed in churches, is sometimes only reaching people’s minds and no further. In other words, even the importance of the Christ-centered, salvation-focused life has been practically lost when you consider the personal lives of church members.

 Today we find ourselves in an era in which we are pressured by economic, political, medical, and even spiritual warfare. The voices that present themselves to us are many. Jesus’ voice, too, can become a “regular” one, just like the others, and we may find ourselves cooled and weakened from our First Love (the love of Jesus, of course)! Today we are called to renew both our love for the Lord as well as our respect for His rule. Today is the time to hear the Lord’s voice and not only to be saved, but also to walk in that salvation and to not-forget our first love, Him who has promised us eternal life.

 If you have things in your life that are causing us spiritual laziness or apathy today, why don’t you put them away from you once and for all, so that you can hear your Savior/Judge’s voice clearly? Complete devotion to the Lord implies accurate spiritual hearing, whether that be through hearing Him through sermons, Scripture-reading, prayer, or fellowship with believers. Today is the day to open our spiritual ears and to remove the voices of the world, the devil, and the flesh from the throne of heart, so that Jesus can be the true King within and over us – because it is the hearer of God’s voice that will be saved. He who lives out his faith, since he still has time, he is the hearer, and not the one who says “yes” (to Christ) but then who returns to their worldly life, thus forgetting their Savior and God.

 The voice of God needs to be heard now – because it is a life-or-death issue. To hear God’s voice means to completely devote oneself to Jesus Christ. The Lord Bless you all. Amen.