

GraceNotes

A Monthly Newsletter of Grace Christian Church



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GROWING IN GRACE “God Speaks Amid The Roar”

Here in the middle of the year 2025 and in the middle of the 2020's decade, we find ourselves at the 100th anniversary of “The Roaring 20's” – 1920's that is. It was a post-WWI era of great economic prosperity, socio-cultural dynamism, and grassroots enthusiasm. Calvin Coolidge was president during “The Roar.” Ironically, he was known as a quiet man – to be specific, a quiet man in loud times. That said, it was not in the loud roar that the best of 1920's wisdom was heard. It was rather in the quiet utterance(s) of Coolidge's faith. That faith, in its traction with his governing philosophy, was enshrined in his well-noted assertion: “Peace, justice, humanity, and charity – these cannot be legislated into being. They are the result of divine grace.” It was a great gem of wisdom added to the annals of “quotable quotes.” Had such not been written down, it would have been lost in and absorbed by “The Roar.”

How much wisdom and insight are lost because of “The Roar?” Every era, every season has its roar. It makes it hard to hear, hard to listen to, and even hard to think about what is most important. Indeed what is most important to know doesn't always roar. Sometimes it is not even close to being loud but is very quiet – yes, maybe almost imperceptible. It was a lesson that the Prophet Elijah desperately needed to learn.

Elijah's ministry M.O. was one of big sights, big sounds, and high drama. He called fire down from Heaven in the presence of the evil monarchs Ahab and Jezebel. They were humiliated and went after Elijah as he fled into the desert. There alone he encountered the roar of wind, earthquake, and fire, all consistent with the terms of his previous ministry. But strangely God seemed absent.....UNTIL...in a “*still small voice*” (I Kings 19:12 – KJV), or as the NAS translates “*gentle blowing*,” he heard God say, “*Go return on your way to anoint kings*” (I Kings 19:15). In other words, “There's more work to be done.”

Why did God confront Elijah with the new ministry M.O. of a “*still small voice*?” Because of the “roar.” Elijah was so fixated on ministry characterized by high decibel display that he was missing out on God's wisdom expressed in the quiet. He was simply living too loudly to hear everything that was important. So there came a time for Elijah as there does for all of us to heed God's call, “*Be still (KJV)/cease striving (NAS) and know that I am God*” (Ps. 46:10). It is noteworthy that the cue “Selah” appears 71 times in the Book of Psalms. Most scholars believe it means “Sh-h-h, be quiet; think about it; meditate; listen.” Interestingly “Selah” appears immediately following Psalm 46:10.

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