

When God Ignores Us | Isaiah 58-59
Sermon Discussion Questions
July 7, 2019

1. This morning Pastor Jim mentioned a point in his life where he had a spiritual awakening. A time when God revealed his love and his power to Jim in a mighty way. He went on to mention that as he shared this with a friend, the opposite seemed to be the case in their life. God hadn't shown up for Jim's friend. Where are you right now in regards to your heavenly father's tangible presence in your life? Has he shown up? If so, share. Testify to His goodness.
2. Today's sermon focuses on one main reason for a sense of heavenly silence; which we will get to. But, before we do, Jim also mentioned a few other potential reasons for feeling like God hasn't been listening and responding to our prayers. Spend a few minutes discussing these other potential issues and make sure these aren't what is hindering your communication with the Lord. 1. Have you even been asking? 2. If you are experiencing suffering could it be that God hasn't yet revealed his purpose for your suffering? 3. Are you looking for the wrong thing?
3. The problem is that the people seem like they want to hear from the Lord, yet the Lord appears to be ignoring them. We hear this a lot still today that someone is trying to hear from the Lord yet they are met with "radio silence". Has this been your experience? How has this made you feel? What has been your response to this? Do you know anyone for whom this aptly describes his or her repeated attempts to communicate with God?
4. God's response to the people's complaints that they aren't hearing from the Lord, and to our complaints of the same thing, is a very tough pill to swallow. God is saying that if we are not hearing from him, it's not his fault, it's ours. He says that we may be crying out to him with our lips yet all the while, we are living in sin. God's reason for not answering our cries, according to this passage, is because we are stuck in sin. Spend time in silent reflection and prayer crying out to the Lord for forgiveness of any sins in your life that may be hindering your ability to hear from him.
5. In the latter half of Isaiah 58, we see that not only is our God able to hear us, he is able to restore our relationship with him. When we honestly seek forgiveness and restoration he will provide it. He promises that he will. In the passage, we see promises of healing, protection, his presence, provision, fulfillment from work, joy as well as present and future blessings. Do you find your specific need on this list? Commit to praying each day this coming week for God to provide you what you stand in need of. Be bold in approaching his throne room.
6. Maybe you do feel like God has shown up for you. You feel like he has made his presence felt in your life. Commit to thanking the Lord daily this week for his kindness. Pray that you will be able to withstand the attacks of the evil one as he tries to destroy your connection to God. Satan hates it when we are in right relationship with our creator and he will be looking for opportunities to slip you up. Are there any securities that need to be put into place this week to ensure success? Also, pray for those that might be in a difficult season that they would taste and see that the Lord is good.