

The Silence of God - Andrew Peterson

It's enough to drive a man crazy, it'll break a man's faith
It's enough to make him wonder, if he's ever been sane
When he's bleating for comfort from Thy staff and Thy rod
And the Heaven's only answer is the silence of God

It'll shake a man's timbers when he loses his heart
When he has to remember what broke him apart
This yoke may be easy but this burden is not
When the crying fields are frozen by the silence of God

And if a man has got to listen to the voices of the mob
Who are reeling in the throes of all the happiness they've got
When they tell you all their troubles
Have been nailed up to that cross
Then what about the times when even followers get lost?
'Cause we all get lost sometimes

There's a statue of Jesus on a monastery knoll
In the hills of Kentucky, all quiet and cold
And He's kneeling in the garden, as silent as a Stone
All His friends are sleeping and He's weeping all alone

And the man of all sorrows, he never forgot
What sorrow is carried by the hearts that he bought
So when the questions dissolve into the silence of God
The aching may remain but the breaking does not
The aching may remain but the breaking does not
In the holy, lonesome echo of the silence of God

A Roadmap Through the Wilderness Hebrews 3.7-19

August 18, 2019

Introduction

- The people of God are in crisis and are abandoning their faith
- This passage and the 6 verses that precede it are about faithfulness
- Faithfulness is tied to obedience and trust; it's a heart issue
- The term "heart" is used three times in this passage
 - What is the "heart"?
- How can we maintain a vibrant faith?

Main Points: We can maintain a vibrant faith by . . .

1. cultivating realistic expectations

- the Israelites hardened their hearts
 - stubborn and obstinate
 - disappointment, frustration, unmet expectations
- what is God concerned about?
 - Holiness over happiness; trust and obedience; faith
- What do you expect from God and/or the church?

2. avoid unnecessary temptation

- their hearts had gone astray
 - human responsibility / sin is volitional / the devil didn't make you do it
 - *James 1.12-13*
- thou shall not covet
 - 1Timothy 6.6 "But godliness with contentment(☺) is great gain"
- Stay focused on Jesus and you won't wander off the path

3. Pursue godly education

- They had sinful, unbelieving hearts
 - Israel lost their original convictions / forgot who God is
- Keep telling the story, keep learning, grow in understanding
- We have the ability to control our hearts
 - Choose for yourselves this day - Joshua 24.15
 - Pray and God will guard your hearts and minds - Philippians 4.6-7
 - Set your minds on things above - Colossians 3.1-2
- Choose God; he's better at running your life than you are

Conclusion

- People lose their way sometimes
- There are things we can do to maintain a vibrant faith:
 - Have realistic expectations
 - Avoid temptation
 - Grow in your knowledge and understanding of God
- We might find ourselves in the wilderness, but these principles will serve us well as a roadmap through the wilderness

Amen.