

The Night Before...

Week 2: Hopeless in Jerusalem

God's _____ is not a sign of His _____.

Welcome to Week #2 of our Christmas devotional that accompanies *The Night Before* sermon series. Last week we took time to look for Jesus and to look out for those around us. This week we tackle the idea of silence and embracing it instead of fighting it. Have you ever noticed that when you're talking with someone and there's a lull in conversation, things get awkward? We look at silence as such a bad thing that we can't help but fill it with something. So we talk, turn on music, look at our phone, call someone, or find any other thing to fill the void. But what if God wanted to use that silence? What if in the silence God spoke the loudest? This week let's wrestle with this idea of Godly silence. Again, take time to read the passage, consider the questions, and then see how you can do something with what you've read this week.

Read:

James 3:1-12

Consider:

- What are your greatest fears or insecurities about silence?
- Speaking is usually the greatest enemy to silence. James writes here about the difficulty in taming our tongue in life. What are the greatest triggers for you that cause your tongue to become wild?
- What does not speaking into a situation allow you to do spiritually? List as many as you can.
- When we don't speak, we are forced to listen more. How can listening increase your relationship with God?
- We've all heard the phrase, "less is more", but how can that apply to our interactions with others? What does silence allow when you do speak to others?

Act:

One of the greatest things about Jesus was not always in what He said, but sometimes in what He did not say. Peter said about Jesus that, "When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." (1 Peter 3:23) Jesus often would withdraw and pray and listen for God's voice in His ministry (Luke 5:16). When He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He listened for the Father's voice in His greatest time of need. (Matthew 26:42) So if Jesus made a habit of resting in the silence of God, then so should we. We should find comfort in knowing He is still there even if He's not speaking. And when we do speak, we should speak out of a heart that has listened well to what the Father has told us in silence.

Bible References:
Revelation 19:11-16
Isaiah 9:6-7
Luke 2:25-38



Because of you, Crossroads

Thanksgiving Meals:

70 families received a meal with all the fixings to their homes, and 11 turkeys were given to our local food bank.

Just a few comments from personal experiences:

- We delivered our meal and it went great ... this was a wonderful experience!
- At the end of today, our hearts were full with joy. All the meals given to us have been delivered ... thanks for the opportunity.
- We delivered the dinner this afternoon after church. Thank you and the church for giving us the opportunity to give a holiday meal to a family in need.
- They were very thankful and gracious. Thank you for the opportunity to help.
- Meal was delivered and everything went well!! It was such a blessing to be a part of this opportunity! We prayed with her before leaving. Thanks!
- My family and I delivered to an older, thankful couple, and THEY blessed US. This was a first try for us, and our hearts are full. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to help others.
- Daniel called the church office wanting to thank whoever delivered his meal. He couldn't be there due to a daughter's doctor appointment, but he was sooooo grateful.

Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving morning:

The Gospel was clearly shared at Half Time as our primary goal for this outreach. 459 players, 40 teams, 20 fields, 44 refs, 67 volunteers, \$1441 to Love INC, a few minor injuries, one Lord Jesus, no fights—Great day!

Opportunity: Christmas Presents Outreach

We have 16 families from a local grade school or a shelter to provide Christmas presents for their children (but to be given from the parents), and warm clothing for 200 men at Gospel Center Rescue Mission in Stockton.

Visit Crossroadsgrace.org/christmasoutreach for information to register for presents for a child, OR for information on the clothing donations.

The entire Crossroads office staff recently toured the facility at Gospel Center Rescue Mission in Stockton, and they've asked if we would provide warm clothing for men in their care. We are asking for only new clothing, sizes M, L and XL, suggested in black, navy and grey, sweat shirts or gloves, and socks or "throw" blankets. We hope to serve 200 men. Drop off deadline: Sun Dec 18th.

Stop along the way this Christmas season to engage a few strangers in simple conversations, and then ask them how you could pray for them. Simple presence, not presents.



Welcome to Crossroads. We design our services to speak to skeptics, newcomers, theologians, and you—we're glad you're here.

Main Services

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30AM

Kidz City (Newborn-4th grade)

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 8:30, 10:00, & 11:30AM

Where: Check-In at Lobby

Pre-Teen Ministry (5th-6th grade)

Thursdays: 7:00PM

Sundays: 10:00 & 11:30AM

Where: Upstairs, Room 205

Crossroads Student Ministries

Jr. High (7th-8th grade)

Sundays: 10:00AM, Thursdays: 6:00PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

High School (9th-12th grade)

Sundays: 11:30AM, Thursdays: 6:00PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

Special Needs Ministry

Sundays: 11:30AM Only

Where: Room 113

Celebrate Recovery

Wednesdays: 6:30PM

Where: Upstairs, Room 208

It Starts Here

Need prayer? New to Jesus? Meet by the cross, to the right of the stage, and a team member will assist you.

New to Crossroads?

If so, join us at MERGE—a place that exists exclusively for you! Meet volunteers, staff, and others that are new to the church. We'd love to buy you a cup of Nightingale coffee. We are located outside, on the upper level, through the exit doors in the loft.

Christmas Eve Services

Please join us for one of our six Christmas Eve Services. Dec 22nd - 7PM; Dec 23rd - 5 & 7PM; and Dec 24th - 3, 5, & 7PM.

No Service on Christmas Day

We will not be having service here at Crossroads on Sunday, December 25th. Please join us for one of our Christmas Eve Services (listed above). We will have something special for you to take home to celebrate Christmas with your family.

Give the Gift of Serving

Serve at one of our six Christmas Eve Services cgcc.church/ServeThisChristmas

CSM Christmas Party

Dec 15 (6PM)

Come to the student ministry party—for fun, food, and games!

Bibles Available

Need to borrow a Bible during service? They are in bookshelves at the back of the auditorium. Additionally, if you need a Bible for your house, just keep it!

Crossroads Prayer Hotline

Call 209.624.0080

Crossroads Church App!

Stay connected. Download the app now. crossroadsgrace.org/app

