

Hebrews: God Speaks

Teacher: James McGee

1. It's clear that the Hebrews writer draws a clear distinction between how God spoke in the past versus how God speaks to us today.

Why do you think this manner of speaking was changed?

What is God indicating by speaking to us through Jesus now as opposed to how he spoke to us in the past?

2. The central message of Hebrews is the supremacy of Jesus.

Why is this such an important point to make?

How might this understanding (supremacy of Jesus) affect my relationship to other people in light of the way Jesus interacted with others? (who he seemed to elevate/honor, his approach to sin, "the least of these," the marginalized, etc.)?

3. We are made in the image of God. Jesus is the Word - the creative force of God's intent, will, and power; when Jesus speaks, things are created. Having been made in the image of God, we also have the unique ability to use language as a powerful force, although in a different manner. God told Adam to name the animals. In doing so, Adam "created" identity and meaning in the animals. Thus, a giraffe was not merely "called" giraffe, but meaning was "created" in the mind of Adam. We don't merely name an object "hammer", but a hammer means something: it means construction, building, work, etc.

Understanding that humans, made in the image of God, have the power to create identity and meaning through language, how does that understanding affect how I speak to others?

What kind of language should I employ as I speak to and about other people?

What does this understanding (regarding the creative power of language and it's relationship with the creation of identity/meaning) say about those without "voice" in our society? (the poor, widows, orphans, the outcast, etc.) and what is my Christian duty toward those "voiceless" groups?