

“Jesus, Reset My Voice” - Good News for Bad Times - Psalm 71:15–16

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Welcome to part three in our series, *Reset: Jesus Changes Everything*. We have been looking at how to have ourselves reset from the inside out, beginning two weeks ago with asking Jesus to “reset our hearts,” and then, last week, asking him to “reset our minds.” Today, we will ask him to “reset our voice.”

To “reset” is to *restore something to its original design*. To set something back to its original purpose, its original intent. So, what does it look like—or *sound* like, in this case—for our voices, the words we choose to speak, to be *reset* for the glory of God? Have a look at the screen for a moment, and then we’ll dive in. **Play Week 3 video...**

This stuff we’re talking about today is *risky*, isn’t it? This is why we need Jesus in the lead. May we never go where he has not led us, but equally true is this: Wherever he wants to lead us, may we always enthusiastically go.

The Scripture we’ll look at today is Psalm 71:15-16 – “My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.”

“My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,” the passage says, “of your deeds of salvation all day long.” Now, *that* is a noble goal. A big, hairy, audacious stretch goal that would seem to be a challenge for even the holiest, most righteous people around. Think about that: *All day long*, each time you open your mouth to talk, what comes out is something God-honoring. That, and *nothing else*.

Friends, is this even possible? Is it even conceivable that each time you and I speak, we could be talking not about the weather, about the Twins or Vikings, about the new restaurant that just opened down the street, or about our latest political views, but about *God*? About his Son, *Jesus*? About *spiritual stuff* happening in our midst? Who does this? Who lives like this? Who *talks* like this?

These are good questions. You want the abbreviated version of the answer to each of them? Not many. At least, that’s what the research shows. A recent study reported by *Scientific American* revealed that, in general, we spend at least 60 percent of our conversational time talking about one thing, and one thing only. Anybody want to take a guess as to what that one thing we spend a full 60 percent of our time talking about is? Yep. *Ourselves*.

Sixty percent of our words: That’s a *lot* of self-disclosure. What’s more, when that communication happens on social media—Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and the rest—the number jumps to *80 percent*. Wasn’t there a country song about this subject once? “I wanna talk about me, wanna talk about I, wanna talk about number-one, oh my me my”? A little Toby Keith to start your day . . . you’re welcome to any country fans out there.

What this suggests is that: because our society is so *very adept* at self-centeredness, and because it feels so *very good* when we ourselves self-disclose, it’s going to take some serious effort if we ever hope to talk about anything else.

On one hand, we have: “My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day long . . . With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.”

And on the other hand: “But enough about me. Let’s talk about you. What do you think of me?”

There’s a disconnect here, I think you’d agree. But things don’t have to stay disconnected for long. See, those verses from Psalm 71 we looked at aren’t some stretch goal we need to strive to achieve; no, they are a *guarantee* of what happens for the reset soul. When your heart has been reoriented toward Jesus and your mind has been repositioned toward truth, what naturally follows is a *reset voice*, a voice that can’t help but talk about God.

Jesus, when talking with his disciples, said it this way: “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit...I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, or by your words you will be condemned” (Matt. 12:33–37).

Nick Hall, who put together this series, wrote in his book *Reset* of a time when he was traveling from one city to the next while on a wearying speaking tour, and as he boarded the plane, he asked the flight attendant if there happened to be any empty rows where he might park himself and get some sleep. She said for Nick to go ahead and take his ticketed seat, and that she’d have a look and get back to him in a few minutes.

In the meantime, a young man in army fatigues sat down next to Nick—eighteen, maybe nineteen years old, fresh out of basic training. The two struck up a conversation, which is how Nick learned that the soldier’s stress level was pretty high. He was being deployed to the Middle East and was nervous about how the experience would turn out for him.

Just then, the flight attendant reemerged to tell Nick she’d found an empty row for him if he cared to relocate. Nick stood, shook the soldier’s hand, and headed off to find his napping spot. But mere moments after settling into his new seat, he was prompted to go back to the row where he’d been and tell the soldier about Jesus.

Nick was tired. And more than a little annoyed that rest was eluding him. But he couldn’t *not* go back. His heart had been reset to care about the things Jesus cares about, and more than anything else on the planet, Jesus cares about people. The mouth speaks what the heart is full of. When your heart is full of Jesus, Jesus will show up in your words.

And so we see this powerful progression, that when we *trust* truth (faith/heart), which is what we looked at during week 1, and then we *take in* truth (mind/thoughts), which was last week’s topic, we inevitably will start *talking about* truth (words/actions) . . .

We will start talking less about subjects of the moment—food, clothing, weather, sports—and more about things of eternal consequence. We will start talking less about the hopeless situations we are facing, and more about the Hope-giver. Less about fads and what’s trending, and more about the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Less about our stress, and more about him whose yoke is easy and burden is light. This is so important and crucial... (Gospel application)

Who does this? Who lives like this? Who talks like this? *We* do. *We* can. You can, starting today.

That story of Nick Hall and the soldier is, at its core, a story about seeing an opportunity to speak truth and seizing that opportunity before it is gone. Anybody want to venture a guess about who was the original master at doing this very same thing?

Yes, Jesus. The sweetest name we know. Get into the habit of saying his name often: *Jesus*. Jesus! Let it flow easily from your lips.

Yes, Jesus was the master at this. He wasn't like a parent who does the "Do as I say, not as I do" thing. I always love hearing the mom at the grocery store screaming her fool-head off at her child to "stop screaming!" Really? Where do you think that precious soul is picking up the behavior, *Mom*?

Jesus wasn't like that at all. What he said *we* should do, *he did*. What he said *we* should say, *he himself said*. And what, exactly, did he say we should say?

To the wind and the waves, he spoke peace. "Be still!" he cried. [Pastor, see Mark 4:39.]

To Lazarus, he spoke restoration. "Come forth!" he demanded the once-dead man. [John 11:43]

To Nicodemus, he spoke truth. "You must be born again," he said. [John 3:1–21]

To the inquisitive lawyer, he spoke love. "The most important thing? It's love. Love, love, love," Jesus said. [Mark 12:28–31]

To the man with the withered hand, he spoke healing. [Mark 3:1–6]

To his disciples, he spoke rest. "Do not let your hearts be troubled!" he said. [John 14:1–3]

To us all, he speaks hope. "I will come for you. Take heart, I will come again." [John 14:3]

On and on the list could go, example after example of Jesus speaking truth and peace and hope and love. Were these messages powerful back when Jesus spoke them? They were. Does our world need to hear these messages still today? You'd better believe it.

Two quick takeaways. First: When you who have allowed Jesus to reset your heart and mind, *don't be surprised when you are given opportunities to speak up for God*.

If you have surrendered yourself to Jesus, those opportunities are coming your way! They are coming your way. Which leads me to the second takeaway: *When those opportunities to speak up for God surface, don't be shy about seizing them*. Don't be surprised when you are given opportunities to speak up for God, and don't be shy about seizing them!

Whether you are asked to speak up on a flight when you're exhausted and in need of a nap, or in the hallway of your school, or at your family's Christmas celebration, or during a backyard conversation with your neighbor, or at a coffee shop, or in a restaurant, or at your local grocery store, *seize every opportunity to point people to Life and Hope*. Can I encourage you to simply seize the opportunities you are given to *say something* worthwhile today, this week, as often as possible?

Please pray with me: How we long to tell of your righteous acts, Lord Jesus, of your saving acts all day long. May we be known as a people who come and proclaim your mighty acts, who talk about you

far more than we talk about ourselves, and who seize every opportunity to pass along the grace, the joy, the love, and the hope we ourselves have found. In Jesus's name we pray, amen."