“SILENCE IS GOLDEN -- SOMETIMES!”

Introduction:
A. In This Sermon, An Examination Of Quietness Or Silence -- When It Is Golden And When It Is Unacceptable.

B. Quietness Or Silence Is SO OFTEN Misunderstood -- Perhaps In NO Place Is This More Seen Than In Relationships With Other People, Particularly In Marriage! Quietness Or Silence Is So Often Viewed As Disinterest, Disengagement, Or Anger!

C. Urge Personal Examination.

I. (Slide #2) When Silence Is Golden!
A. When God’s People Are Overwhelmed By Troubles And Mistreatment.
   1. Ps. 46 “To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A song for Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah 4There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. 6The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. 7The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah 8Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. 9He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. 10Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! 11The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.”

   2. Hymn: “Be Still And Know That I Am God!”

   “Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that strengthens thee,
I am the Lord that strengthens thee,
I am the Lord that strengthens thee.
So, be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God,
Be still and know that I am God.”

3. Oh how easy it is to gripe, complain, carp, and even be angry at God when troubles and mistreatment come!

4. Being quiet and relying upon God is one of the greatest attributes of those who truly trust Him; we may not see the end; we may not see any way for things to improve; however, “be still and know that He is God!”

5. God is our strength, our rock, and our refuge! Trust Him so you can stand and overcome!

6. This demands growing and strengthening your faith LONG BEFORE those troubles or mistreatment come!

7. Never forget that God loves his people; never forget that man cannot defeat God!

8. Know God; Trust Him; Rely upon Him when you feel that your life is spinning out of control!

9. See the following examples:
   a. Israel having escaped Egypt, facing the Red Sea before them, the wilderness on both sides, and the Egyptians behind them -- “Be Still And Know That I Am God!”
   b. Gideon as Israel was in oppression to the Midianites.
      1. Ju. 6:13 “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”
      2. He then put a fleece on the ground and asked God to put dew on the fleece but not on the ground; later he asked God to put dew on the ground but not on the fleece. Ju. 6:36-40
      3. “Be Still And Know That I Am God!”
   c. David faced SO MANY dangerous situations that seemed inescapable! God’s answer: “Be Still And Know That I Am God!”
B. (►) When Righteous Rulers Lead And Protect The People Of A Nation!
1. God wants people to have peaceful life, to live their daily life loving their family and friends, doing their jobs, and feeling blessed to be alive.

2. Gideon, Ju. 8:28 “Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was **quiet** for forty years in the days of Gideon.”

3. II Ki. 11:20 “So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was **quiet**, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword *in* the king’s house.”

4. II Chr. 14:1-5 “So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In **his days the land was quiet for ten years**. ²Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God, ³for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images. ⁴He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment. ⁵He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was **quiet** under him.”

5. II Chr. 20:30 “Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was **quiet**, for his God gave him rest all around.”

6. God’s people should pray for rulers and for God’s providential protection of their peace.
   a. I Thess. 4:11 “that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,”
   b. I Tim. 2:1,2 “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”
   c. What a blessing a life

7. Tragically unrighteous and evil rulers take advantage of the quiet:
   a. “For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land.” Ps. 35:20
   b. Unrighteous rulers can make life absolutely miserable for decent people, even Christians! Nero and Domitian were classic examples of rulers who brought upheaval to the peaceful lives of Christians; fear, persecution, and torture became the norm instead of peace!

C. (►) When You Have Disobeyed God And Want To Rationalize It.
1. When people disobey God, they often rationalize their actions, become defensive toward those who admonish or correct them, and become angry at God when their sinfulness is identified.

2. Cain was irate when God refused to accept his worship; He lashed out at God and at his brother. Gen. 4:5-7 “He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6So the LORD said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’” [NIV of verse 7 “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”]

3. Saul did not obey God’s command to utterly destroy the Amalekites. He spare King Agag and the best of the animals under the rationale that they could thank God for the victory. When Saul tried to justify his action, Samuel responded! I Sa. 15:16 “Then Samuel said to Saul, ‘Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.’”

D. (Slide #3) When A Christian Woman Lives A Respectable Life!
1. I Pet. 3:4 “rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

2. Loud, boisterous actions are not becoming of women who love the Lord!

3. If she lacks discretion, Pr. 11:22, if she is contentious or angry, she dishonors herself! Pr. 21:12; See also Pr. 19:13; 21:9; 25:24,

E. (►) When You Are Doing God’s Will And Are Mistreated For It!
1. No matter what occurs, do not moan, complain, or talk about how bad you have it when you are obeying the Lord.

2. Look at Jesus!
   a. Is. 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”
   b. This is the prophetic portrait of the Suffering Savior who submitted to His Mission which was a part of Heaven’s plan; He did not complain; He did not flee; He submitted to that Will!
   c. This was the passage the eunuch was reading in Ac. 8:32 and did not understand.
F. (►) When You Are Filled With Gratitude!
   1. Quietness does not have to mean morbidity or being at a funeral!

   2. Quietness CAN EVINCE AWE/RESPECT/APPRECIATION because of GREAT EMOTION!
      a. Awe Of God!
      b. I went to Belarus for years; when I would come back and attend a
         ballgame and the National Anthem would play, tears would run down
         my face! I realized HOW BLESSED we are to be Americans and to live
         in this country with its advances and blessings!

G. When You Want To Think Up Some Profound Platitude To Say To A Person
   Who Loved One Or Whose Small Child Has Died!
   1. Do not embarrass yourself or cause pain to the grieving person.

   2. Many like to say, “All things work together for good!”

   3. The BEST thing you can say is “I care!” Just be there and be quiet!

II. (Slide #4) Times When You Cannot Be Quiet.
    A. (►) Silence Can Be Complicity! Silence Can Signal Acceptance Or
       Condoning! Silence Can Be Sinful!

    B. (►) When Troubles Flood You, Cry Out To The Lord!
       1. Job “I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes.” Job
          3:26

       2. It is certainly acceptable to cry out to Him! Christ did!
          a. Mt. 26:39 “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed,
             saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me;
             nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”
          b. Mt. 27:46 “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

    C. (►) When God Is To Be Praised!
       1. Ps. 30:12 “To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be
          silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.”

       2. Ps. 29:2 “Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the
          LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

       3. Ps. 96:8 “Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and
          come into His courts.”
4. Hymn “Glory To His Name!”

D. (Slide #5) When You Need God’s Help!
1. WHY BE QUIET when you need help; cry out to your Father and to your Lord!

2. Look at blind men in the Bible:
   a. Mt. 20:30,31 “And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, ‘Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!’ 31Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!’”
   b. Blind Bartimaeus: “Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sá by the road begging. 47And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ 48Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’” Mk. 10:46-48

E. (►) When Oppression Is Occurring!
1. Es. 4:14 “For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

2. God may providentially use you to make a difference when people are being mistreated or when injustice occurs!

F. (►) When People Are Opposing Truth. Their Voices Must Be Stopped!
1. We need to be God’s voices when Truth is challenged or opposed. Tit. 1:11

2. When Peter was brought by God to the house of Cornelius, Jewish brethren opposed him for teaching and baptizing Gentiles. Peter spoke up boldly and explained God’s mission for him and the response of the Gentiles. Ac. 11:18 “When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’”
3. Ac. 15:12,13 “Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles. 13 And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, ‘Men and brethren, listen to me:’”
   a. The elders at Antioch spoke up when Jewish Christians from Jerusalem came to Antioch and were trying to bind circumcision upon new Gentile Christians.
   b. Paul and Barnabas spoke up as they related God’s supernatural support as they preached among Gentiles, baptized them, and as Paul passed on miraculous gifts to these new Christians!

G. (►) When Brethren Are In Sin:
   1. Ga. 6:1,2 “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
   2. Js. 5:19,20 “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

H. (►) When YOU Are In Sin!
   1. Ps. 32:3-5 “When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah”
   2. Ac. 8:24 “Then Simon answered and said, ‘Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.’”
   3. Christian, if you need forgiveness, speak up immediately!
   4. If you are not a Christian, confess your faith, and express your desire to be baptized immediately so you can be saved from your sins when you are baptized.