

# LESSON FROM AN ICEHOUSE

Before refrigerators, people used icehouses to preserve their food. Icehouses had thick walls, no windows and a tightly fitted door.

In winter, when streams and lakes were frozen, large blocks of ice were cut, hauled to the icehouse, and covered with sawdust. Often, the ice would last well into the summer.



In his book *Directions*, author James Hamilton shared an incident about one of these icehouses. A man lost a valuable watch while working in an icehouse. He searched diligently for it, carefully raking through the sawdust, but couldn't find it. His fellow workers also looked, but their efforts, too, proved futile.

A small boy who heard about the fruitless search slipped into the icehouse during the noon hour – while all the workers were outside having lunch – and soon emerged with the watch.

Amazed, the men asked him how he found it.

“I closed the door,” the boy replied, “lay down in the sawdust, and kept very still. Soon, I heard the watch ticking.”

What is the spiritual lesson in this story?

Often, the question is not whether God is speaking, but whether we are still enough and quiet enough to hear. Let's face it, we live in a fast-paced society, rushing from one business appointment to another, hurrying to a church or civic-club committee meeting, driving the kids to an athletic event, visiting with a teacher about a child's learning progress, taking care of house and lawn duties, making time for some physical exercise, and being faithful to worship services on the weekend.

How can we stop and listen to God? If we understand that He has created us to do His will, we must seize the opportunities to be quiet and hear Him, such as ...

- Sitting in the sun room or on the patio with a cup of coffee as the sun rises and the birds are rehearsing for their day's concert.
- Including some additional minutes for reflection on the devotional you just read. What does it mean for me?
- Turning on some Christian music in the car on your way to or from work.

(more)

- Scheduling some family time on weekends or vacationing in a cabin in the mountains or along a lakeshore – quiet places away from the noise pollution of sirens and traffic, the sounds of city life.
- Sitting in front of a fireplace for solemn contemplation as the flames dance among the logs.

Our Lord is speaking to us. Are we listening?

*Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter