



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## LISTENING UNTO JESUS



MANY OF US ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE PHRASE “LOOKING UNTO JESUS” WHICH COMES FROM HEBREWS 12:2. THERE WE’RE TOLD TO FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH. THIS IS OFTEN USED TO AS AN INSPIRATION TO PRESS ON AMID HARDSHIP SINCE CHRIST “FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.” THIS IS A WONDERFUL ENCOURAGEMENT. I WONDER THOUGH, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT LISTENING AND NOT JUST LOOKING AT

CHRIST’S CRUCIFIXION? YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED WHAT YOU’D HEAR.

WHEN WE LISTEN TO CHRIST ON THE CROSS THE FIRST WORDS WE’D HEAR ARE “FATHER FORGIVE THEM.” (LUKE 23:54). THOUGH BEING TORTURED OUR LORD OFFERED TENDER WORDS OF COMPASSION TO HIS CRUCIFIERS.

THE THING WE WOULD HEAR NEXT IS “TODAY, YOU’LL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.” (LUKE 23:43). THIS SENTENCE GAVE COMFORT AND HOPE TO A REPENTANT ROBBER ON THE CROSS NEXT TO CHRIST’S.

JOHN 19:26-27 READS, “WHEN JESUS THEN SAW HIS MOTHER, AND THE DISCIPLE WHOM HE LOVED STANDING NEARBY, HE SAID TO HIS MOTHER, ‘WOMAN, BEHOLD, YOUR SON!’ THEN HE SAID TO THE DISCIPLE, ‘BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER!’ FROM THAT HOUR THE DISCIPLE TOOK HER INTO HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.”

AS THE OLDEST SON, JESUS WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO MARY HIS MOTHER, BY ASKING JOHN TO PROVIDE FOR HER.

WE HEAR OUR LORD’S HUMANITY WHEN HE SAYS “I THIRST” (JOHN 19:28) AND WE HEAR HIS AGONY WHEN HE SCREAMS, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” (MATTHEW 27:46 AND MARK 15:34.) WE KNOW OF HIS DESTINY WHEN, IN HIS SIXTH SAYING, HE NOTES “INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” (LUKE 23:46). THEN FINALLY, AS WE LISTEN TO CHRIST’S FINAL PHRASE FROM THE CROSS, WE HEAR WORDS OF VICTORY. “IT IS FINISHED! AND HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT.” (JOHN 19:30) CHRIST’S SALVATION MISSION WAS ACCOMPLISHED, SATAN WAS DEFEATED AND CHRISTIANS THROUGH THE AGES GAIN CHRIST’S BLOOD-BUGHT PARDON.

LISTENING UNTO JESUS WE HEAR WORDS OF COMPASSION AND COMFORT FOLLOWED BY EXPRESSIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY, HUMANITY, AGONY, DESTINY AND VICTORY. MIGHT WE STOP, LISTEN AND LEARN FROM THESE WONDERFUL WORDS OF CHRIST.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE