

Peace for the Journey ... April 26, 2010

Scripture Reading: James 1:19-27

According to one source, around 9 out of 10 people living the U.S. have a mobile phone.* Even if that's an exaggerated number, cellphones are everywhere. A generous majority of people in our culture are accessible by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With the advent of smart phones, many of us can not only be reached by phone or text message, we don't need to be sitting at our computer to receive email. We're always available.

These advances in technology have changed the way we relate to each other. We now expect to be able to contact someone instantaneously. Or, turned the other way, we are expected to be available whenever someone else needs us. Like Pavlov's dog** we respond immediately to every ring (or ringtone) we hear, making sure we don't miss anything.

Whether this is good or bad (or neutral) is a topic for another discussion. What is worth considering is whether God has the same access to us as our friends and family. Can God get our attention as readily as people who have our phone numbers? We are extraordinarily sensitive to the rings and vibrations of our phones: do we cultivate the same sensitivity to the calling of God -- the vibrations of the Holy Spirit?

James says disciples of Jesus should be good listeners -- listening to each other; listening to God.

If you dare, turn off your phone(s) for a few minutes today. Listen quietly and see if God might be trying to get in touch with you.

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_number_of_mobile_phones_in_use

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivan_Pavlov