Despite the Press (noisy-crowd) you and the Lord can Communicate – <u>Asaolu O. S.</u>

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Introduction: This admonition is to assure each of us that despite the noisy-crowd, throng or cacophony in the world or religious space, one can reach out to God and He can equally reach out to anyone whose heart is right with Him. It takes a mind with faith to connect with the Lord, He recognizes such and grant their desire even beyond their expectations. Consider...

Mark 2:1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. 2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. 3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. 4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee... 11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.

Mark 5:24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, **came in the press behind**, and touched his garment. 28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. 29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague... 34 And he said unto her, Daughter, **thy faith hath made thee whole**; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, <u>This day is salvation come to this house</u>, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Notice how each of these persons was debarred or constrained by the press/crowd but DID something to reach out to the Lord! On burst into His presence, another reached out from behind while another ran ahead to await Jesus. In the confusion or problematic situation of our world, despite economic, emotional, security, medical and other challenges that surround us and try to put a wall or barrier between us and God, we must stretch out in faith, act out with hope and trust that he would receive us or that we merely need to touch Him with her spiritual hand. Jesus sees as you grope around, He is aware as you make your way in faith unto Him and can distinguish you from the crowd that mill around or shout in prayers. He appreciates sincere, trusting hearts. He won't disappoint; he will give us what we want or something better at the right time. He is NOT too busy to take your case neither is ignorant or overwhelmed with the throng. He is still in the business of saving the day and the soul!

Conclusion: Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

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