



Hearing the Voice of God Pt. 1

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Ice Breaker: Have you ever gotten really lost? What happened?

Pasor Loren's sermon this week begins a new message series called **"Hearing the Voice of God."**

- Some people believe today that God no longer speaks to people. Do you believe God still speaks to his people? Why might some people not believe that God still speaks?
- Who are you closest to in life? How did your relationship develop?
- Why does God desire to be close and personal with his people?

The Big Idea: We live in a very loud culture. The sound of our day is filled with the voices of media, news, politics, music, movies, sports, social media, friends, teachers, spouses, and much more. We hear it all, but have we heard the voice of God? God doesn't have a speaking problem. We have a listening problem. He is speaking and it's critical to hear what He is saying.

Dallas Willard - "If God doesn't speak today then the greatest disservice we could do to people is to tell them they can have a personal relationship with God."

- It is possible that what we perceive to be relational, emotional, and spiritual problems are actually hearing problems. Do we have ears that have been deafened to the voice of God?
- Is God's voice the loudest voice in your life?

The Bible shows us the many ways God speaks to us. There are at least 12 ways listed in Scripture.

- Loudly through signs and wonders
- Prophets and Pastors
- Pain and circumstances
- Through His Word, the Bible

The method of communication God seems to us the most: **a quiet voice, a whisper.**

In Mark 4 Jesus was in a boat with his disciples. Verse 37 says, **"A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion."** The disciples believing they were about to drown awaken Jesus. Then Jesus does something the disciples would never forget the rest



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of their lives. He stands and says, **"Quiet. Be still."** At his whisper, the winds died down and the waves were calm.

- Why do you think God uses a whisper to speak?

No form of communication is more intimate than a whisper, and yet, it seems to be God's preferred method of communication.

When someone speaks in a whisper, you have to get very close to hear. In fact, you have to put your ear near the person's mouth. We lean toward a whisper, and that's what God wants. The goal of hearing your heavenly Father's voice isn't just hearing his voice; it's intimacy with Him.

Nothing has the potential to change your life like the voice of God.

In 1 Kings 19 Elijah experienced the greatest victory in Elijah's life. But then there is the next chapter. Sometimes the greatest discouragements follow the greatest victories.

READ 1 Kings 19:1-18.

- Have you ever had a large struggle after a large victory?
- What is the "still small voice?"
- Why wasn't God in the wind? Earthquake? Fire?
- Why would God whisper instead of shout?
- What are the benefits of listening?
- How does listening help us trust God more?
- What lessons can we learn from God about changing depression?
- How did God turn Elijah's thinking around?
- What are some of the different measures God took to comfort Elijah?
- Why was Elijah upset with God? (1 Kings 19: 14)
- How often do human circumstances make us feel alone?

Elijah had been God's mighty man of power. He had been used by God to perform miracles. He was a leader. He was a prophet. By calling he was one who spoke on behalf of God. Elijah was used to speaking, but now it was time to listen.

- Do we give any space and time to hear God's voice?



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What we learn from Elijah's story....

1. Hearing the voice of God should be a regular part of our lives.

Elijah was not alarmed. He had heard God's voice before. He recognized the voice of God because they were on speaking terms. Are you on speaking terms with God? The NT says "the sheep know the shepherd's voice."

Revelation 2:7 - "Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says..." (7 times in Scripture)

1. God does not always speak in a thundering voice.

Job 26:14 - "These are just the beginning of all that he does, merely a whisper of his power. Who, then, can comprehend the thunder of his power?"

2. Most often God speaks to our hearts in a quiet place.

Psalms 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God..."

Hearing the voice of God requires...

- Priority

If we aren't willing to listen to everything God has to say, we won't hear anything He has to say. If you want to hear his comforting voice, you have to listen to his convicting voice. It's often what we want to hear least that we need to hear most.

If we aren't intentional about hearing God's voice, it probably won't happen. We need to elevate the priority of listening to God. We want to hear what he has for us to do. We want to know what it is that he desires for our lives.

- Proximity

Proximity means nearness in relationship. It is the desire to be close to God. The Bible says that when we draw near to God, he draws near to us.

- Stillness



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This is difficult for us, but we need to intentionally build quiet into our lives because our lives are almost always noisy.

- **What does God want to say to me?**
- **How can I make more room to listen for God's voice?**