



## DAY THREE

My sheep hear  
my voice . . .

*My sheep hear My voice,  
and I know them, and  
they follow Me.*

JOHN 10:27

THE MARK OF A SHEEP is its ability to hear the Shepherd's voice.

"The sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (John 10:3 NIV).

The mark of a disciple is his or her ability to hear the Master's voice.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20 NIV).

The world rams at your door; Jesus taps at your door. The voices scream for your allegiance; Jesus softly and tenderly requests it. The world promises flashy pleasure; Jesus promises a quiet dinner . . . with God. "I will come in and eat."

Which voice do you hear?

Let me state something important. There is never a time during which Jesus is not speaking. Never. There is never a place in which Jesus is not present. Never. There is never a room so dark . . . a lounge so sensual . . . an office so sophisticated . . . that the ever-present, ever-pursuing, relentlessly tender Friend is not there, tapping gently on the doors of our hearts—waiting to be invited in.

Few hear his voice. Fewer still open the door.

But never interpret our numbness as his absence. For amidst the fleeting promises of pleasure is the timeless promise of his presence.

1. Comparisons are frequently drawn between people and sheep in the Scriptures.

- How does Psalm 78:52–53 describe God’s care of his people during the Exodus?

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- What does the psalmist call people in Psalm 79:13?

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- According to Psalm 119:176, what are sheep prone to do?

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2. God had stern words for the irresponsible “shepherds” of Israel who put their own wants ahead of the good of his people. How does the Lord describe the state of affairs in Ezekiel 34:5–6?

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3. For this reason, God made several promises.

- What does he say in Ezekiel 34:11 that he plans to do?

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There is no chorus so  
loud that the voice of  
God cannot be heard . . .  
if we will but listen.  
IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

- How will the flock be cared for, according to verse 15?

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- In verse 23, what does God say will happen?

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- What statement, in verse 31, closes this chapter?

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4. What comfort do you take from the description in Isaiah 40:11 of God's tender care of those who are his?

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5. In the New Testament, Jesus is said to lead his sheep. How does Hebrews 13:20 describe him?

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6. The Father's care for his flock was seen in Jesus. How does Jesus refer to himself in John 10:14?

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7. Jesus says he is known by his own. How is he known, according to John 10:4–5?

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8. All the apostles heard Jesus' voice and knew him—even Paul. In Acts 22:14, Paul shares what Ananias was sent to tell him in the days after his Damascus experience. According to that devout man, what three things was Paul chosen to know and see and hear?

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9. What does John 5:28 tell us will occur one day?

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Voices that encourage  
and affirm are distant.  
But voices that tantalize  
and entice are near.  
Voices. Some for pleasure.  
Some for power. Some  
promise acceptance.  
Some promise tenderness.  
But all promise something.  
IN THE EYE OF THE STORM



Interesting. A day is coming when everyone will hear his voice. A day is coming when all the other voices will be silenced; his voice—and his voice only—will be heard.

Some will hear his voice for the very first time. It's not that he never spoke; it's just that they never listened. For these, God's voice will be the voice of a stranger. They will hear it once—and never hear it again. They will spend eternity fending off the voices they followed on earth.

But others will be called from their graves by a familiar voice. For they are sheep who know their shepherd. They are servants who opened the door when Jesus knocked.

Now the door will open again. Only this time, it won't be Jesus who walks into our house; it will be we who walk into his. ✱

