

Hearing the Voice of God - Pt. 1

5-8-2022

Intro

Hearing God speak is the most natural thing in the world.

We were created by a communal God, for communion, which involves communication.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks “What is the chief end of man?” And the answer is “to glorify God, and ENJOY Him forever.”

Joh 17:21 The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind— Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.

Joh 17:22 The same glory you gave me, I gave them, So they'll be as unified and together as we are—

Joh 17:23 **I in them and you in me. Then they'll be mature in this oneness, And give the godless world evidence That you've sent me and loved them In the same way you've loved me.**

What I have felt the Lord saying to me, in preparing for today, is before we can talk about anything else concerning hearing the Voice of God, is that he wants to speak to YOU.

Joh 10:2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:3 The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me.

My chickens.

I can tell each one apart. I love them, I pay attention to their little nuances and what sets each one apart.

Psa 139:1 For the choir director. A psalm of David. LORD, you have searched me and known me.

Psa 139:2 You know when I sit down and when I stand up; you understand my thoughts from far away.

Psa 139:3 You observe my travels and my rest; you are aware of all my ways.

Psa 139:4 Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD.

Psa 139:13 For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:15 My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

Psa 139:17 God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is!

We have to start here because you aren't going to be able to enjoy a communal relationship with any one if you believe that you aren't desired by the other person.

This is personal! God formed your person and he wants to speak to YOU personally!!

God is personal, he knows every hair on your head, he knows every thought in your head and every word before it forms on your tongue. And it's because he lovingly draws us close and pays attention. He's the loving shepherd who draws in close and knows YOUR name and wants to speak to you.

1Sa 3:4 Then the LORD called Samuel, and he answered, "Here I am."

1Sa 3:5 He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call," Eli replied. "Go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

1Sa 3:6 Once again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call, my son," he replied. "Go back and lie down."

1Sa 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, because the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

1Sa 3:8 Once again, for the third time, the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the boy.

1Sa 3:9 He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

1Sa 3:10 The LORD came, stood there, and called as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel responded, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Samuel was called, set apart... you are called, set apart... God, who formed you in your mother’s womb, who knows every thought in your head, knows when you sit and when you rise and is as the scriptures say “familiar with all our ways” knows us intimately, personally, but he wants us to know HIM this way too. He wants us to spend time with him, to live every day with Him, and respond to his call, as Samuel did, with “Speak Lord, I’m listening...”

We have to reciprocate that back if we want to know him and hear his voice.

WE MUST MAKE SPACE.

Martha and Mary

Luk 10:38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

Luk 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

Luk 10:40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

Luk 10:41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

Luk 10:42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Mary chose the better portion- she made space to sit at the feet of Jesus.

He was there too, as a friend. He wants to hang out with us.

Distraction and busyness will rip us off from hearing God's voice.

"Good busyness" can rip us off- she was "distracted with much serving."

This is heart posture, but it's also a physical time and space to sit in his presence. And spiritual disciplines are important, not to do out of religious duty, but out of worship and devotion, and to help train our ears to hear him.

Talk about what that looks like for me.

I do this in the morning.

I journal, I put on a piano instrumental album, sometimes I have to get on my physical knees to hear properly.

PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY!!

The Vision of sitting at the table, abiding in his presence.

Martha is busy thinking she's gotta hurry up and get a table set and a meal prepared for Jesus, but Jesus is like, I've set a table for YOU, come away with me, and ABIDE!! Man does not live by bread alone, but by every WORD that comes from the mouth of God!! Come away abide, get still and quiet, and let me speak to you... let me fill you.

On the Road to Emmaus

Luk 24:13 That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem.

Luk 24:14 They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened.

Luk 24:15 In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them.

Luk 24:16 But they were not able to recognize who he was.

Luk 24:17 He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend.

Luk 24:18 Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

Luk 24:19 He said, "What has happened?" They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people.

Luk 24:20 Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him.

Luk 24:21 And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened.

Luk 24:22 But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb

Luk 24:23 and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive.

Luk 24:24 Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

Luk 24:25 Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said?"

Luk 24:26 Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?"

Luk 24:27 Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

Luk 24:28 They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on

Luk 24:29 but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them.

Luk 24:30 And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them.

Luk 24:31 At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Luk 24:32 Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

Luk 24:33 They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together,

Luk 24:34 talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!"

Luk 24:35 Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

Jesus opened the eyes of their understanding, through the Word, through the Scriptures!!!

He ill illuminated the scriptures to them!

This is the embodiment of what Paul prays for the Ephesians when he prays that the “Holy Spirit would give them wisdom and revelation inn the knowledge of Him. That the eyes of their understanding would be enlightened!!”

He wants to open our eyes to the truth of the scriptures, old and new testament!!

Invite Him in as the couple on the road to Emmaus did... ask him to illuminate the scriptures for you, to give you understanding!! HE WILL!!

Your heart will BURN with in you!!

True word's from God will never go against and contradict scripture!

Story about 3 years ago on our anniversary trip.

