

Following the Shepherd's Voice

2 Corinthians 11:2 ... I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that **I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.** 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- **We cannot follow Jesus without hearing His voice. Period.**
 1. My Sheep hear/recognize My voice
 2. My Sheep I call by their name
 3. My Sheep will not listen to those who seek their harm
- God called me to start my business helping people w/ disabilities
- The Lord spoke to me. Really? How did the Lord speak to you?

Doesn't the Lord Speak to You?

John 10:2 ...the sheep **hear** [the Shepherds] **voice**; and **he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.** 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes **before them**; and **the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.**

- Jesus **calls us** by Name
- He **leads us** throughout the day
- **He goes before us as He...**
 1. Sustains us
 2. Corrects us
 3. Comforts us
 4. Protects us

Yet, We can only follow Him if we are able to recognize His voice

- **Q.** Do we hear His voice? If not...why not?
- **A.** Too much static. Too much noise. Too much information...

Three Times in human history an overabundance of evil human consensus leading to God's judgment

Genesis 6, Genesis 11, Daniel 12

- **Genesis 6** Before the Flood

Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. 3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. 5 Then the Lord saw that the **wickedness of man was great in the earth**, and that every **intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** 6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

1. Too many sinners in one place at one time

2. Too much sinful communication
3. Too many emotional/sinful contagions/demonic invitations
4. Informational/Technological information excess preceded judgement
5. **Lord Himself Intervenes.** Sitting on Throne leaves only 8. Psalm 29:10

▪ **Genesis 11** Before the Scattering

Genesis 11:4 [After the flood God desire them to spread throughout the earth. They said no] "Come, let us **build ourselves a city**, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a **name for ourselves**, lest we be **scattered abroad** over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; **now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.** 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord **scattered them abroad** over the face of all the earth.

1. Too many sinners in one place at one time
2. Too much sinful communication
1. Too many emotional/sinful contagions/demonic invitations
3. Informational/Technological information overload preceding judgement
4. **Lord Himself Intervenes:** Scattered/Spread apart

God established Boundaries for our protection. Why?

When sinners congregate sin is multiplied/condoned by sinful consensus

Acts 17: 26 [God] has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has **determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings**, 27 so that **they should seek the Lord**, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him.

▪ **Daniel 12** Before the 2nd Coming

Daniel 12:4 "... seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase.**"

▪ **Prophesied by Daniel in 540BC:** Realized today...

Internet: New Tower of Babel bringing sinful man together

Draws God's People away from the Simplicity found in Christ

1. Extra-biblical religious books
2. Surfing net for new stuff? If new its not true and if true its not new
3. News: Keeping up to be able know or diving into cesspool? How do you feel?

Shut it down. Worldly Wisdom does not make us wise. Fear of God is beginning of Wisdom

We must fight to keep things simple...

- **20/80 Rule:** Roughly 80% of outcomes come from 20% of causes
- How much of what do each day falls into the 80% of worthless time...

Romans 16:19 I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple [innocent] concerning evil...

▪ **Religious Info Porn:** Free Masonry/Cults/false-Teachers

Interesting but unprofitable at best. Harmful worst
Substitute for hearing the voice of the Shepherd

- **Other voices scream** 24/7 seeking to render us useless for the Kingdom

Ephesians 4:13 [Goal is to...] come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, **tossed to and fro** and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ

- Unless we are grounded in the truth we will fall for a lie

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits** and doctrines of demons...

Too much information drowns out the Voice of the Shepherd and leaves us scattered

Mission? Keep our minds uncluttered

- Keep your Library Small/List of Bible teachers short. **Pick 4**
- Don't let the History Channel tell you about Jesus
- James 1:27 keep oneself unspotted/unstained from the world. How.

Follow the Shepherd... My Sheep Hear My Voice and Follow Me

- We learn to hear/recognize His voice by...
 1. Listening to the Word
 2. Reading/Meditating His Word
 3. Praying/Listening for His voice/To His voice/Doing what He says

We can be like David who knew the voice of his Shepherd

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.** 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

John 10:5 [My sheep] will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they **do not know the voice of strangers.** 14 I am the **good shepherd**; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Silence the Static. Learn to hear/recognize the voice of Jesus our Shepherd
Then we will know is false because we know what is true

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