



Do You See, Can You Hear, Do you Believe? Part 1

A Call to Watch & Pray

As we're in prayer about everything happening in our nation and across the world, there are many voices cheering, and others decrying events in outrage. And while believers and unbelievers are split or ambivalent on which side to choose, I urge you NOT to side with hearts that are not seeking after the Lord even if they sound justified in what they're saying. Don't assume who speaks for God or who is seeking Him because they appear to know Him. Deceivers are very busy trying to pull people to one side or another; trying to lure us to follow them. Turn their volume down and make sure that YOUR own knees are bent towards Jesus alone and your own heart is seeking after Him.

If they don't sound like Jesus in the Bible, feel like Jesus in the Bible, or love like Jesus in the Bible--they are NOT sent by Jesus in the Bible. We are in a proving ground period. Our spiritual ears and our susceptible hearts are being tested. Will we hear people over God? Will we choose emotions over His will? Will we be angered by those who themselves are angry with God? Choose carefully. The window for "locking in your answer" to these questions is closing.

There is a duality to what's happening and it seems like 2 sets of hands are at work. Things are being torn down and set up at the same time. None of it is without God's control! We will indeed experience more wars foreign and domestic and more sorrow and yet more of His Presence and more of His Power IF we are seeking Him. Both will happen at the same time, and if we are not focused we will miss Him. You can both experience it AND be a part of what He's doing. But those who think they stand on their own without Him will fail and fall tragically.

This is a prophetic and historic transitional period with eternal effects. And we are alive to see it. God is trying to reach you. Let us be humble and listen for Him.

Scripture Reading

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Introduction

As we are listening to hear Jesus in all of the fearsome commotion around us, what came to me in prayer is that:

- What we see affects "how" we hear
 - What we hear affects "what" we see

I did a little research on whether or not this is biologically true:

How What We See Changes What We Hear

Research known as the McGurk Effect demonstrates how our brain can be influenced into hearing something that isn't accurate to what's shown to you.

Many of us have played some of these social media games where your brain is being tested by a visual and a sound at the same time. The post says "some of you will hear this" and "others will hear something else."

For example:

If someone's lips form "ga" but the audio says "ba," your brain may hear "da."

Your ears are receiving one thing.

Your eyes are receiving another.

Your brain **creates a third perception.**

Vision can literally rewrite sound in your mind.

Even in a musical concert where performers and listeners are locked into both creating and receiving the experience, if a drummer APPEARS to hit the drum harder, it can make the groove *feel* heavier — even if the audio actually stayed the same when he/she appeared to be playing normally. Or if a singer appears to sing with a LOT of facial expressions, it affects how we "hear" their performance.

- A bigger speaker "looks louder," so people report it as louder.
- A dramatic lighting moment makes music feel more intense.

How What We Hear Changes What We See

Sounds direct our visual attention.

- Makes your eyes move
- Sharpens visual focus
- Increases perceived urgency

Film composers know this well. Sound tells your eyes where to look.

- Play ominous music under a neutral face → it looks sinister.
- Play uplifting music → the same face looks hopeful.
- Sound assigns emotional narrative to visuals. That's why film scoring works.

- What we see affects "how" we hear
 - What we hear affects "what" we see

We are 4 weeks away from Palm Sunday and in the Book of John, I was curious what occurred 4 chapters before John 12 and what the Word of God is showing us in John 8. It's so important that we BOTH see Jesus at work in the world around us and also hear Him as He calls us as laborers in His harvest.

In John Chapter 8 I see one thing highlighted and seen again and again in Jesus' ministry (even today) that is it was really hard for the Pharisees and even the disciples to see things Jesus' way because they weren't hearing what He was hearing. Jesus often had to explaining His words and His reasons for saying it but He only did that for those who were open to receive Him. And even after His explanation, they didn't really get it until much later. For the Pharisees, they only saw and heard the Law.

We see this play out in John 8:1-12. Because Jesus heard and saw correctly, He could clearly cut through the noise on 3 major issues that still face us today:

1. **Condemnation or Grace**
 2. **Lineage or Identity**
 3. **Truth or Lies**

Condemnation or Grace

John 8:1-7 (NKJV)

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, **"He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."**

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one,

beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, *"Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"*

11 She said, "No one, Lord."

And Jesus said to her, *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

Do you see? Can you hear? What do you believe?

- The Pharisees only **saw** condemnation for the adulterous woman.
 - The Pharisees had only **heard** the Law and not heard Grace
 - They **believed** death was the only just outcome
 - Jesus **saw** an opportunity for forgiveness
 - Jesus **heard** their anger and He **heard** her cries. Jesus also **heard the Father's heart to redeem her**
 - Jesus **believed** in His divine authority and identity as "the light of the world."

Lineage or Identity

John 8:13-20 (NKJV)

13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true."

14 Jesus answered and said to them, *"Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. 17 It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true. 18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."*

19 Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?"

Jesus answered, *"You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."*

20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

Do you see? Can you hear? What do you believe?

- They only saw Jesus' earthly identity
- They only saw the Teacher's need to be confirmed by someone else, and not The Person of Christ introducing Himself to the world.
- They only saw Jesus' earthly lineage but not his Heavenly origin.

John 8:37-47 (NKJV)

Abraham's Seed and Satan's

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father."

Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father!"

Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

Do you see? Can you hear? What do you believe?

- They only **saw** truth in their own lineage and not the personification of Truth standing before them.
- They couldn't **hear** Him because they didn't have **faith or perception to receive Him.**

A commentator said:

- "The Pharisees **saw** a Lawbreaker and a Galilean teacher without credentials"
- "When Jesus spoke, they didn't **hear** mercy they heard threat."
- "They didn't **hear** revelation, they heard blasphemy."
- "They didn't **hear** the fulfillment of the Law, they heard the violation of it."

Because they could only **see** the Law, it affected **HOW they heard Jesus.**

Truth and Lies

There were some Jews there that when they heard Jesus— they believed on Him!

John 8:31-36 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house

forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Jesus right there was speaking to a generation of Jews who never tasted the whips that their forefathers received at the hands of the Egyptians. They were proud of their lineage from Abraham, but didn't identify with the hardships of Abraham's descendants who were delivered from Egypt.

Selective history clouds insight and wisdom.

But Jesus reacquaints them with what slavery is and points to their current state of being in "slavery to sin." And as they began to believe Him, they received the capacity to receive Him.

John 8:43-44 (NKJV)

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

There are those that truly cannot abide the Truth because they are not connected to the Truth.

In spite of the events surrounding our lives, there is either a presence or the absence of a connection with The Lord to guide us and help us navigate the choppy waters between the shore of Truth and the tides of lies.

There are a few ways to spot lies:

- The story keeps changing
 - The goalpost keeps moving
 - The reasons become more and more sensational or more and more reductive
 - The fall guy, villain or blame keeps shifting
 - The illusion becomes more and more alluring

There are a few ways to spot the Truth:

- He is consistent and timeless
- He is both the Messenger, the Message and the Author (all in one)
- It all points back to Him and what He said and what He's done
- He reveals things as they really are (no matter how messy or inconvenient) and He offers redemption to His better way

I'm gonna quote one of my big bros. Maybe he's not the author but an

effective messenger.

"If you only go by what you see, you're easily fooled." And I'll add "If you only go by what you hear, you're easily deceived."

- What we see affects "how" we hear
 - What we hear affects "what" we see
 - What we see and hear "affects" what we believe
 - What we believe affects what we say
 - What we say has an "effect" on the world around us

Close

I'll end where we began

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

It's so easy to be convinced by the loudest voice, the biggest sound or the most vivid of images. But Jesus invites us to a deeper experience where we truly know the Truth.

- Truth beyond what others want us to see, hear or accept.
 - Jesus invites us to know the Truth and to Abide in His Word.
 - His word cuts through the noise of tradition, politics, emotions and perception and speaks directly to our souls.
 - He invites us into freedom — free from the constraints of sin, condemnation and lies and He brings us into Righteousness, Grace, and Truth.