

Sermon Notes
Hearing God
Week 3

Title- Hearing is Obeying

In a sermon series that is focused on the Bible's long narrative on Hearing God, it would be an incomplete study if we did not focus on Obedience. Though I would never tell someone that it is better for them to not hear God's voice, I see how dangerous it is to hear God's voice and then ignore it. When I spend time thinking about which is the worst outcome (between not hearing God at all or hearing Him and ignoring what He says), I can't unsee how damaging it is to our souls when hearing is not followed up by obeying. Obeying God when He speaks is perhaps the clearest litmus test on how genuine a Christian's commitments are to Him as God. Remember, You Listen To Those You Love.

This week we looked at Jonah's example to see what happens when one of God's prophet intentionally tries to run away from His presence. Instead of summarizing the sermon, I want to ask a few follow up questions that I think I should ask before we move on. I think this week needs to be a week of realizing where we actually stand in terms of our intentions with God. It is important for you to realize whether or not you intend on being Obedient to God because that realization should be a huge eye opener for all of us. If you do not think that He is not worthy of your obedience then you need to know that.

Quick Note→ These questions do you no good if you settle for safe Sunday school answers. You may KNOW the right answer to these questions but if that is not the answer that your heart agrees with its important to know. I hope that you grapple with your real answers to these questions. Before moving on pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where you are when it comes to being a person who hears God and obeys Him.

- I think the first thing to consider is to acknowledge whether or not you feel as though you hear Him. If a stranger came up to you on the sidewalk and asked, "Do you hear from God?" What would your answer be?
 - If yes→ do you have a habit of being responsive when you hear him?
 - If no→ do you want to be able to? (be honest here)
- Was there a time in your past when you felt God was more noticeable in your life?
 - If yes→ do you think you struggle to hear God now because there is a higher likelihood that you will not follow through with what you hear? Why did you feel him/hear him more clearly in the past? Did you trust him more earlier in your Christian walk?
- When do you think it is ok for you to not do what God has told you to do?
 - It is common for many Christians to get a sudden thought of doing something good or talking to someone about Jesus. When you find yourself in one of these moments do you have a habit of doing whatever that sudden thought is or do you talk yourself out of it? (examples could be→ telling someone about Jesus, giving

a homeless person some money, encouraging someone you don't really know, introducing yourself to a stranger).

- Could it be that you don't hear God because you know that your mind's made up to not do what He has to say?
- What do you think it would take for you to learn how to be responsive to God when you think He's speaking to you?
- Is the God of the Bible a God worth obeying?

One Last Thought to Ponder.

I want to leave you with something that may or may not be true about your walk with God. Only you and the Holy Spirit will know the answer to this question and I think it is vital for all of us to know where we truly stand with it. All I want to do here is to leave you with one more thought for you and the Holy Spirit to ruminate on together. Spend time figuring this out.

- If listening to God is obeying Him→ Do I want to be a person who hears Him?
 - If your genuine answer is a firm No... Then you have serious need to rethink whether you should consider yourself to be a Christian. I am available to have these discussions if you make this realization. God loves you and He is worth obeying. It is important to realize where we are, even if that realization is not what we thought.