

Sermon Notes
Hearing God
Week 9

We made it through another sermon series and I really pray that it was meaningful to you. I haven't been shy about expressing the importance of this topic. I pray that through our words you heard God speak to you and that you have been given a fuller picture of Biblical narrative. Hearing God holds such an important and prevalent place throughout the entire Biblical narrative and I pray that you have eyes to see how often God directs us to hear Him. Hearing God is central to the Christian way of living and it is what we've been made to do!

I wanted to close our sermon notes by summarizing some of the most important things from this series so that we can be reminded of where we've invested ourselves in. Once again, I pray that this has served you in your spiritual walk! Now it's up to you to take this and put it all into practice.

Definition of Hearing God

- **Tuning our attention** towards God so that we are ready at all times to **Capture**, **Remember** and **Act** on what God is saying.

Quote I enjoyed→ “The primary organ for receiving God's revelation is not the eye that sees but rather the ear that hears—which means that all of our reading of Scripture must develop into a hearing of the word of God.” (Eugene Peterson, Eat This Book)

Plan

1. A God Who Hears & Speaks, A Humanity that Hears & Speaks
 - Genesis 1-2
 - We hear God because He is a God Who Speaks. We speak with God because He cares to listen. Hearing God **IS** the design to life that God set up. Even if we don't understand why He would care so much, the story of the Bible is that He chooses to! Every single person has been made to hear & speak with Him.
2. The Human Template: Abraham
 - Genesis 12, Genesis 16- Hagar & Ishmael, Genesis 22
 - I believe that the most central message that we are meant to learn from Abraham's life is that we are meant to be people who follow God's voice. Through Abraham's life we see this one consistent lesson→ God is the one who Sees and We are the ones who Hear. God sees everything and speaks to us about what we need to know & where we need to go.
3. To Hear is to Obey
 - Primary- Jonah (whole book)
 - i. Other Interesting Passages→ Exodus 19:5, Deuteronomy 13:4, Psalm 115:6
 - The Biblical understanding of Hearing God cannot be preached without acknowledging that obedience is non-negotiable. Hearing God is not just being receptive to His voice, plenty of people hear and never care to obey. Hearing Him

and not obeying what He said is a mark of someone who is not actually listening. To Hear God is to Obey. The Hebrew word Shema is the most consistent word on this topic and it is the verb “to hear” AND “to obey” because there is no distinction in the Biblical worldview. To Hear God is to Obey Him.

4. The Only God Who Hears

- Primary- 1 Kings 18
 - i. Other Interesting Passages→ Deuteronomy 4:28, Daniel 5:23, Psalm 115:2-8, 1 Samuel 5:1-12
- We looked at when Elijah called the prophets of Baal to a contest on Mount Carmel. The context of the faceoff was simple. Both sides would set up an altar and the God that responded and acted would be the winner. I used this story because I think it does an amazing job at summarizing one of God’s overarching critiques to our idol worship. God consistently personifies our trust in idols by saying that when we worship things that are not Him, we worship and turn to things that cannot hear us. Only Yahweh hears and speaks to all. Only Yahweh responds in this world. Yahweh is the only God who is active. He’s the only God who hears. Idols cannot hear you so don’t trust in them or expect them to do any good.

5. Jesus, The Word of God

- Primary- John 1:1-18
 - i. Other Interesting Passages→ Hebrews 1:1-3, Ephesians 1:3-4
- The Holy Spirit inspired the gospel of John to introduce Jesus in a very different and specific way. It stands out from the other gospels and begins to tell the world about Jesus by describing Him as God’s Eternal Word. This Word has always been with God and is also, Himself, God. This Word came and manifested the invisible God and becomes God’s clearest way of speaking to the world. In Jesus we hear God because He was God. In a series about Hearing God we point to Jesus who was God’s words and who taught us God’s words.

6. Jesus, The Shepherd Worth Listening To

- John 10
- It is not a coincidence that when Jesus talks about an abundant life He also speaks about Hearing God. In John 10 Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. The only Shepherd who can perfectly care for the flock. The Shepherd who calls his sheep by name. Jesus also says that His sheep know his voice and runs away from strangers. Jesus’ sheep know His voice and love it.

7. Hearing God- Training For Turning

- Matthew 11:2-6
- In Matthew 11 John the Baptist sends some of his disciples to see if Jesus could be the promised messiah. When they ask Jesus, his response to them is simple, “Go and tell John what you hear and see...” When we look at Jesus what do we see? The Kingdom at work. People are healed because it was the Messiah’s Rite to heal. Jesus’ ability to heal our physical bodies is a demonstration of how He could heal our souls. Jesus’ ability to heal the deaf is part of his Messianic Rite. He healed our ability to Hear the Father.

8. Hearing God Brings Unity To The Church

- John 17
- Right before Jesus faces the cross he leads his disciples through the Passover meal. To end the meal he prays and they witness what we call Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. In this prayer He asks for two things. The first is that He asks the Father to Glorify (acknowledge) what he was about to go through. The second is that He asks the Father to bring Unity to the church. If we are people who are hearing God, we will partake in what we've heard Jesus pray over the church, unity. Unity is not promised to the world, it belongs to the church.

9. Saved Through Hearing

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20, Romans 10:4-17
- To close our series I wanted to remind us that hearing God is not an impossible task. Both passages remind us that hearing God is what we've been made for. Hearing God can be normal because He speaks and hears and has made us to do the same. Both Deuteronomy and Romans say→ *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.* God has brought us His Word and His words in Jesus and we can know them and be saved by them!
- I also wanted to remind us of this→ Romans 10:17- "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." If you've heard God's Word and have confessed Jesus as Lord then your words can contribute to someone else finding eternity. Hearing God also includes learning that our words carry the Kingdom in them. When we share the Gospel we become dependent on hearing God. Share the gospel and you'll hear God speaking to you!

We will be taking a few weeks to take a look at the topic of Stewardship but our next major sermon series will look into→ Speaking Jesus. We're very excited about this.