

Disciples Hear the Master's Voice

March 8, 2020

Big idea: an encounter with Jesus changes everything.

Why do we emphasize imitating Christ?

Why do we say everything changes?

What specifically changes? (finances, fruit of life changes, a clean heart, hospitality = love of others)

Disciples hear the Master's voice

John 10:27 "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

- Prayer is more than talking to God. Prayer is also listening to God.
- In marriage counseling we talk about active listening. "If I understand you correctly, you said ..."
- This requires some practice. That's why Christians are encouraged to pray the Psalms. "God, if I understand you correctly you said ..." And, "God, I'm feeling like this." And God hears every prayer.
- Questions of the day: do you hear God speaking to you?
- May we be like Samuel who said, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)

How Does God Speak to Us?

If sheep, aka disciples, listen to his voice, how do we do that?

- Nature
 - Romans 1:20 "For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."
- The Word
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."
 - Joshua 1:8 "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do."

- Hebrews 5:12 “You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.”
- Prayer - active listening, habit of prayer, unceasing prayer
- Through people
 - Romans 10:13-15 “For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?¹⁵ And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20 “So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”
 - 1 Thes. 2:4 “For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.”
- Opportunity
 - Acts 3 - Peter and John gave the lame beggar what they had and then “Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. ‘What is so surprising about this?’”
 - Colossians 4:3 “Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains.”
- Miraculous intervention (audible voice, writing on the wall, casting lots, donkey)
- Special knowledge
 - Holy Spirit dropping something in our hearts/minds/spirits that we had no natural way of knowing
 - “What is so surprising about this? For it is God who brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this” (Acts 3:12-13)
 - “Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.” (Acts 3:16b)

We All Need Someone to Teach Us

- Coach
 - Someone to push us beyond our limits
 - Improve performance, effectiveness
 - Keeps us focused on the end game
 - Understands offense and defense, has a strategy for both
 - Understands strengths and weaknesses, has a way to compensate for each
 - Even the best athletes utilize coaches
 - Good coaching never gets in the way of creativity, productivity, - good coaching enhances this.
- Music as an example
 - Jazz

- By ear - listen and repeat, call and response
 - Practice scales - not exciting, absolutely essential
 - Repetition - develop that muscle memory
 - My band director in college knew within minutes if I had practiced or not that week. He wasn't afraid to call me out.
 - Every album has a producer.
 - Worship team today had a worship leader, someone to call the shots, to make decisions about key, tempo, how often to repeat the chorus, when to end the song
 - The leader makes decisions when things don't go according to plan.
 - Quick note - if you call yourself a leader and no one is following, you are not leading.
 - Leadership isn't about making strong unilateral decisions. However, a good team understands when to offer feedback and when to go with the leader (whether or not they agree).
- Trades
 - Apprentice, journeyman, junior, in-training - all words we use to describe professionals in the making.
 - If you are hiring a plumber, would you rather have the guy who spent years practicing under a professional or the guy who learned everything with YouTube videos? You would likely spend a few extra dollars more on the pro, wouldn't you? Why? You want to make sure that water stays in the pipes!
 - If you are hiring an electrician, same thing, right? Smoke and sparks are bad. You hire the pro who has been trained to keep things safe.
- Coaching is good. So why do so many of us refuse to find coaches in the one area of life we can't afford to get wrong? Our faith. Why do we resist mentorship when it comes to walking with Jesus? Why do we privatize this area of our lives that should be lived out in an obvious way in public?
- Several possible reasons for this
 1. Bad teaching - we haven't been taught that this is important or even possible
 2. Shame - we don't want to face weaknesses or we don't want to confront the lies. In other words, we fear the possible discomfort of truth more than we enjoy the pleasure of the lie.
 3. Resistance from the enemy. The enemy works to keep us in the dark.
- The remedy
 1. Good teaching.
 2. Commit to seeking the truth, Godly truth is greater than my sinful shame
 3. Stand up to the enemy.
 4. Get started today!

Godly Mentors

Defined: an adviser that points you to Jesus

- **Scripture mentors**
 - Learn from these, study them
 - Hebrews 11:4 “It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, *he still speaks to us by his example of faith.*”
- **Holy Spirit mentor**
 - Always with us
 - 1 John 2:27 “But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don’t need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.”
- **Mentors in the flesh**
 - 1 Cor. 11:1 (or 10:34) “And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”
 - **Everyone needs a mentor.**
 - “I’m following Jesus. You are following Jesus. Let me show you what I know.”
 - Test them: 1 John 4:1 “Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.”
 - **Everyone needs to mentor someone** (eventually).
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 “Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”
 - Matthew 28:18-20 “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, [all peoples, every ethne] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
 - Everyone needs peers/coworkers/co-laborers. Not just a vertical arrangement. **Everyone needs friends.**
 - Christ is our mentor. The world's hierarchy is a vertical arrangement - mentor, student. Kingdom hierarchy is Christ, then brothers and sisters under Christ, subject to Christ.
- Reflection questions: Who will mentor you? Who will you mentor? Who is your peer?

God Speaks to Us Through Communion

- These are your coworkers, your colaborers, your peers, your brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus
- 1 Corinthians 10:17 “And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.”

- As we sing and as we approach the table, take a moment to examine your life.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 “For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given [or broken] for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.’