

Getting to Know the Voice of God



John 10:1-5, 27

- Theme: The Year of Refreshing
 - We Started a Series: The Refreshing of the Holy Spirit
 - The word “refreshing” implies the supply of something necessary to bring restoration of strength, spirit, vigor, or liveliness, relief after suffering, or new life.
 - The word “refreshing” is synonymous to the word rejuvenate, revive, to renew, restore or to refortify.
 - Purpose – to make us aware of the Holy Spirit’s involvement in our daily lives. To help us become sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit leading and direction for our lives.
 - Goal – to strengthen our relationship with the Holy Spirit so that our life and our witness will glorify Jesus Christ.
 - In today’s society people’s lives are like a race car that runs non-stop around a race track at such great speed that barely makes it to the end of the race called life without either running out of gas, spinning out of control or wrecking someone life along the way.
- A. The challenge becomes when we get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of life that we forget to take time to sit, listen, and get direction from the most important person in our lives – Jesus Christ.
- The Spiritual Principle of Organization is God’s plan to simplify my life.
 - If the truth be told many of you sitting here today, your life has become too complicated either you complicated it or you have some complicated people in your life.
1. What has to be clear for every true believer is that there should be nothing in our lives that is more important than sitting, listening, and getting direction from the Lord.
- God’s greatest gift to the world was His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16).
 - Jesus Christ greatest gift to believers was He the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7, 14:16-17)
 - It is He the Holy Spirit who communicates the will of the Father and Son to every true believer (John 16:13).

2. The believer's connection to God is not through Mary the mother of Jesus, nor any of the Apostles whom God used and neither through gifts, we believe in the gifts. Our connection to God is through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6)

- There are some religious groups who believe that Jesus was just a good person, just a good prophet, just a good teacher, just a good leader, but Jesus Christ is much more than that – He is God who came in flesh reconciling the world unto Himself. (2 Corinthians 5:19-21)

B. The Book of Luke Chapter 10:38-42, shares with us a story of two sisters named Martha and Mary who were both were friends of Jesus Christ along with their brother Lazarus.

1. Both sisters were loving, caring and very hospitable toward guests that would come to visit to their home, which was their custom to do. But Jesus is not just any guest.

- Mary wisely chose to sit at the feet of Jesus, to listen to and be attentive to His every word. (vs. 39).
- The number one way God speaks to us is through His Word. The highest authority for the believer is the Word of God.
- Martha was very hospitable, but became distracted, because her attention was on serving and being busy with all the household duties.

2. We must always position ourselves in prayer by sitting and listening to our Head who is Jesus Christ.

3. We must also serve faithfully as Christ's disciples. We are called to serve and not be served. (Mathew 23:11), "Jesus said, let the greatest among you be servants."

- Notice Jesus' concern with Martha was that she became distracted (vs. 40).
- The word "distracted" means to be drawn away, driven about mentally, or overly occupied.
- It means to be pulled and dragged in different directions.

4. Martha's distraction leads to a sense of aloneness, self-righteousness, self-focus and even led to her questioning if Jesus even cared about the situation (vs. 40). Martha's distraction leads to (4) Four things:
 - Disbelief – “Martha asks, “Lord do you not care...”
 - Defensiveness – Martha defends her place and her stance, “My sister has left me to serve alone.”
 - Demand – Martha flat out says to Jesus, “Tell her to help me.”
 - Desperation – Martha tries to change the narrative by putting the spotlight on her sister Mary and what she wasn't doing – with her comment about “serving alone.”
5. Notice how Jesus lovingly addresses Martha's issues of distraction. (vs. 41)
 - (vs. 41) – Jesus answered and said, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.
 - In other words, Martha consider your ways, think about what you are doing, think about what's driving you – think about what you are focusing on and being distracted by.
 - (vs. 42) – Jesus tells Martha, “But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”
 - Jesus' response to Martha, was to applaud Mary for choosing Him above anyone or anything. To sit at His feet and listening to His every word.
6. Mary's attentiveness to Jesus didn't go unnoticed. Mary's love for Jesus Christ caused her to push everything aside and focus all her love and attention on the most important person in her life – Jesus Christ.
 - As believers we can't allow the distractions of this life to cause us to become disconnected from the most important person that we all need the most – that is Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ is our only connection to God! (John 14:6) If we are going to hear from God we must be connected to Jesus. (John 15:1-5)
 - We must learn to sit in prayer and in order to hear God consistently.
 - We must serve God faithfully as Kingdom rulers in the earth.

- C. But first, we must understand the importance of our relationship to our Head – which is Jesus Christ.
1. The Head of the body of Christ is Jesus Christ. We must be in proper alignment with Him in order to hear God's voice.
 2. The most important part of our natural body is our Head. The most important part of the body of Christ is the Head – Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18-19)
 - God put all things under Jesus Christ – which means everything both visible and invisible is subject to Him.
 - God positioned Jesus as the Head of the church.
 - God is sovereign. He didn't need or ask for anyone's permission, nor our opinion on the matter. God has highly exalted Him (Jesus) and given Him a name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:9-11)
 - God knew what was best for His body (His church) and that was to give us His amazing gift which is His Son Jesus Christ to be the Head of the body of Christ.
 3. Jesus Christ's headship was not given by God in the sense of domination, but rather a blessing for the people of God.
 - God made Jesus the Head over all things – not a few things, or some things.
 - So, the question must be asked and answered before we can move any further, "Is Jesus Christ the Head of your life?"
 - Are you connected to the Source of life who is Jesus Christ?
 - There will be those believers in the last days who will fall away from the faith of Jesus Christ – having form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:5)
 4. The believer's dependence upon the Head (Jesus Christ) is not an option, but a requirement. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
 - The entire body of Christ depends on the Head - Jesus Christ.
 - The relationship between the Head (Jesus Christ) and the body of Christ (the Church) is necessary for our spiritual guidance and nourishment.
 - Jesus Christ (the Head) alone can give believers the strength and nourishment of God to help them as they walk day by day through life.

- **Jesus Christ (the Head) holds the body (the Church) together and enable it function as it should.**
 - **Jesus Christ (the Head) holds the church together as one body in love, joy, and peace – worshipping, serving and living for God each and every day.**
- 5. The Head (Jesus Christ) and the body of Christ (the Church), must function together in order to be effective as it relates to the will of God being done in the earth.**
- **Here's the reality, if the Head's connection between the body becomes diminished or no longer valued – the entire life of the body and even our world will be highly affected by it. (Matthew 5:13)**
 - **There are saints who have chosen to be detached individually from the body of Christ – the loss of connection to Jesus Christ (the Head) have left them spiritually malnourished and they open themselves up for deception.**