

Law & Order, VII

Hearing His Voice

May 29, 2016

Welcome to where we come to learn His Word and to hear His voice!

Do you know Jesus' voice? How do you know?

How do you know if you're following His voice?

Six months before the cross, the Jewish leaders were fed up with Jesus' parables and riddles, and confronted Him in the Temple.



So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, **tell us plainly.**” [*parrēsia: without concealment; without ambiguity or circumlocution; without the use of figures and comparisons*] Jesus answered them, “**I told you,** [lit. “it is spoken to you”] and **you do not believe.** [How was it spoken to them?] The works that I do in my Father’s name **bear witness** [*martyreō: report; record*] about me, [i.e. describe me; disclose Me; and, identify Me] but **you do not believe** because [they’re not matching His words and actions with scripture to see how they align] **you are not part of my flock.** [How do we know if we’re part of His flock?] My sheep **hear** [*akouō: attend to; consider; perceive; understand*] my **voice,** [*phōnē: the particular way one utters their words. In the Father’s case, as well as the Son’s, through His Word*] and **I know them,** [*ginōskō: become intimate with them*] and they follow me.” [*Willingly; joyfully; expectantly*] – John 10:24-27 ESV

How can we follow if we can't hear His voice?

And, **how can we hear if we don't know His Word?** It's crucial that we learn to discern.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ [*Lord of Lords*] will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who **does** [*poieō: constructs; forms; fashions; produces; brings forth*] the **will** [*thelēma: purpose and desire and pleasure*] of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, **did we not prophesy in your name,** [“Was it not Your Spirit that inspired us to teach, refute, reprove, admonish, and comfort others?”] and **cast out demons in your name,** [“Was it not Your authority that allowed us to deliver others from oppressive and unclean spirits?”] and **do many mighty works in your name?**’ [“Was it not Your power working through us to accomplish great things?”] And then will I declare to them, [Yes, but it's not about what you achieved; it's about us] **I never knew you;** [Were we ever close? Did you ever seek Me to know Me, understand Me, trust Me, or love Me? Or, was I just a means to an end?] depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” [*Shepherd-less sheep; pretenders of the flock*] – Matthew 7:21-23 ESV

Want to know how to hear His voice? You have to *want to*. It's true. And, **it's not a passive decision; it's an active pursuit.**

... [if] you **seek** [*baqash: to seek; to ask; to desire*] the Lord your God, you will **find** him [*matsa': detect; acquire; meet; encounter*] if you **look for** him [*darash: search for; enquire; investigate; consult; practice; study; follow; apply; frequent a place*] with all your **heart** [*lebab: heart; soul; mind; will; determination; courage; thinking; reflecting; understanding*] and with all your **soul**. [*nepesh: life; breath; being; appetite; desire; emotion; passion*] – Deuteronomy 4:29 NIV

I don't know if you truly desire to know your Creator. But, I do know that **if you *do* truly desire to know Him, He'll meet you when He sees you searching with purpose and passion.**

There's no entrance exam. **It's not about achieving the answers, but digging the treasure!** He's created an adventure to share with us, which is why He wants us to approach it like children.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. – Proverbs 25:2 NIV

And, **finding treasure will always fuel more seeking.** What riles our Father is when we have no desire to go seeking with Him.



[Jesus once scolded His disciples, saying] **“Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?”** – Mark 8:18a NIV

He compares His kingdom to buried treasure. (Mat 13:44) Yet, He warns of the servant who buries the treasure that's entrusted to him. (Mat 25:18) **We're expected to search it *and* share it.**

God's Word is like this brick wall. See that little rock in the center? *It's not a rock.* What is it? It's obvious, *when you know.* In fact, once you see it, you can't *un-see* it.



It's staring you in the face, but you have eyes that can't see; because, it's an illusion – like the deep delusion of God that leads any who don't love or seek truth to believe the pleasure of lies. (2 Thes 2:10-12) That's the ash of a protruding cigar.

God's Word is page after page of solid brick walls that contain the most incredible surprises for anyone who embraces His Word as a loving child, grateful friend, and faithful follower.

On that day, you won't be judged by what you've done in His name (otherwise, the *“Lord, Lord”* folks would be gettin' in); but, simply by whether or not you love Him ... *first and foremost.*

[Jesus said] **“If you love me, you will obey what I command”.** – John 14:15 NIV

... “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’” – Mark 12:28b-30 NIV

I see two “cigars” in this brick wall: 1) “Love” and “seek” are interchangeable regarding “all our heart” toward God. And, 2) There’s something strange about that title: the “Lord your God”

He’s quoting Moses.

Hear, O Israel: The **LORD** [*Yĕhovah: The Existing One*] our **God** [*'elohiym: Gods; Rulers; Judges (plural of elowahh: God!)*] is **one LORD**: [*Yĕhovah: The Existing One*] and thou shalt love the **LORD** [*Yĕhovah: Existing One*] thy **God** [*'elohiym: Gods*] with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. – Deuteronomy 6:4-5 KJV

Those who seek will find that the One and only Creator, has always been plural in nature: Father, Son, and Spirit. *You win a cigar!* As the prophet Jeremiah echoes Moses:

You will **seek** me [*baqash: to seek; to ask; to desire*] and **find** me [*matsa': detect; acquire; meet; encounter*] when you **seek** me [*darash: search for; enquire; investigate; consult; practice; study; follow; apply; frequent a place*] with all your **heart**. [*lebab: heart; soul; mind; will*] – Jeremiah 29:13 NIV

Because, **the moment you start you’ve won His heart.** To love the Lord with all your heart, is to seek the Lord with all your heart, so that you can hear His voice and ...

Trust in the Lord **with all your heart** ... – Proverbs 3:5a NIV

Especially when He instructs you to ...

Lay hold of my words with all your heart ... – Proverbs 4:4b NIV

Which means, *all of His Word.*



The Jews love the First (Old) Testament, but ignore the Last (New) Testament. **Christians love the Last (New) Testament**, but ignore the First (Old) Testament. **Satan likes it either way, as long as we don’t love both;** because, **the voice of the Shepherd is the First and Last.**

The First Testament is the setup; and, the Last Testament is the payoff. And, how can we ever hope to understand, appreciate, and recognize the Author of Salvation without knowing His work?

Especially since ... *He is His work!*

In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God.
... The **Word** became **flesh** and made his dwelling among us. – John 1:1, 14a NIV

What's the first word in the First (old) Testament? "Beginning" [Hebrew: *Bereishit* (b'ray-SHEETH) בְּרֵאשִׁית]. **What's the last word in the Last (New) Testament? "Amen"** [Greek: *Amēn* (ah-MANE) ἀμήν]. Look what else the Word of God calls himself in the Word of God:

"These things says the **Amen**, [the Last of the Last] the **Faithful and True Witness**, the **Beginning** of the creation of God: [the First of the First] I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot." – Revelation 3:14b-15 NKJ

Do you know the voice of the "Faithful and True Witness"?

Do you trust Him and hold onto Him with all your heart?

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. [They didn't know His voice] Yet to all who [saw and heard and] received him, to **those who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God – John 1:11-12 NIV

Do you believe in his name? Do you know Jesus' name? Careful now ... it's a "brick wall".

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God**. ... **Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations. [The **Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God** (Eph 6:17); The **Word of God** (both First and Last; Old and New) is living and active and sharper than any **double-edged sword** (Heb 4:12)] He will rule them with an **iron scepter**. [NKJ: **rod of iron**; Job writes: "Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an **iron tool** (NAS: **stylus**) ... forever! I know that my Redeemer lives ... you should fear the **sword** ..." (Job 19:23-29);] ... On his robe and on his thigh he has *this* name written: KING OF KINGS AND **LORD OF LORDS**. – Revelation 19:13-16 NIV

Do you believe in His name?

"Many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord,' did we not do stuff in **Your name**? And then will I declare to them, 'I (**the Word of God**) never knew you as a close friend.'"

"I am **the Alpha and the Omega**, [the written alphabet] **the First and the Last**, [Testament and Covenant] **the Beginning and the End**." – Revelation 22:13 NIV

Jesus, the Faithful and True Witness, is the living expression of God's Word, from "Beginning" to "Amen". And, **God's Word is the written expression Jesus**, from cover to cover, and in every dot, dash, and letter in-between.

How well do you know His voice?