

God Is Always Speaking To You

The God Experience Series- Part 4

Connect: In one of my (Pastor Danny) trainings as a leadership coach, we would explore the various ways that we should be good “listeners”. The following list describes different ways that we can listen well. As a group, discuss each one and give examples of how you know someone is listening to you in this way.

1. Listen with your mind
2. Listen with your body language
3. Listen with your words
4. Listen with the Holy Spirit

Here’s a personal question on the subject of listening: *“How do you feel when you perceive that someone is NOT listening to you?”*

Hook: The Christian believer takes great comfort in knowing that God is omnipresent (he is present everywhere), omniscient (he knows all things), and omnipotent (he is all powerful). These divine characteristics declare that he really is God, but they also make our hope for salvation a certainty. Yet, imagine for a moment how confident you would feel toward such a God if he were completely silent toward His creation. Some words that might come to mind are fearful, hopeless, anxious, without direction, and lawless. A speechless God, no matter how powerful or all knowing, gives very little comfort in a troublesome world! Thankfully, we have a God who does speak to us:

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. Hebrews 1:1-2

Today in our small group discussions, let’s look at a New Testament story where Jesus is speaking and how two sisters reacted differently to this opportunity to listen.

Book:

Martha and Mary

38. As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what He taught. 40. But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to You that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." 41. But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42. There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

Look:

Our text has five short verses, and yet they are packed with punch! Each verse has something to say about listening and hearing the voice of God.

1. Read again, verse 38. Mary and Martha had this wonderful opportunity to invite Jesus into their home. Today, how can we invite the presence of Christ into our homes?

2. Read verse 39. When we look at the Scriptures and follow the life of Mary, we find that she spent a lot of time at the feet of Jesus (Here in our text, John 11:32, and John 12:3). In what ways can we spend time with Jesus and why is it important to you to do so?

3. Look at verse 40. How was Martha distracted and what was she missing because of the distraction? How might distractions be the cause of complaining?

4. Jesus speaks to Martha's complaint in verse 41. He states that her desire to serve as led to worry and being upset. How can serving others and serving God be done in such a way that it leads to worry and strife?

5. Read verse 42. How did Mary come to be at the feet of Jesus and not in the kitchen? Why would this experience never be taken away?

Making It Personal:

What is your biggest enemy to spending consistent time alone with God? How can you overcome it?

Someone says, "I tried doing that, but I didn't get anything out of it." Your reply?

How can we be consistent in the Word without falling into either a dry routine or legalism?

How might God feel toward you when you refuse to listen to Him?