

Following Jesus' Voice

Bottom Line: Just like the disciples learned to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God, we learn to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God.

Date of Sermon (to be preached) | #3 Week in Series

Series Title: Essentials | Template Author Pastor Jordan

Core Scripture: **Hebrews 3:15** “**Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.**”

Use 🗉 emoji to indicate that the line is a slide for presentation.

Summary of Main Points

- Following Jesus after salvation is a process of sanctification.
- Following Jesus looks like this: Listen, Repent, Believe, Obey, Enjoy

// Summary of Conclusion

- What do we want to see the outcome be? An understanding of HOW to follow Jesus and think through whether they're growing and living as Jesus intends.
- Response: Altar Time

// Introduction Ideas

- Possible directions for sermon introduction: Something that illustrates a VOICE (command given) and a response (someone listening) maybe a joke or funny story about Alexa or Siri ...?

🗉 #1 Following Jesus after salvation is a process of sanctification

- The Holy Spirit is the voice of God on the earth. While Jesus was here on earth, the disciples followed Him and learned from Him and became like Him. **Just like the disciples learned to listen to Jesus, change and establish the Kingdom of God, we learn to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit.**

We take part in sanctification and it's a process of following Jesus and becoming like Him. I've been following Jesus for _____ years and I am STILL learning to become like Him as the Spirit teaches me.

Sanctification is a wonderful process of following Jesus, hearing His voice, letting Him lead us and becoming like Him, establishing His Kingdom on the earth.

- We spent a great deal of time last week learning about who Jesus is as God's Son who took our place and paid for our sins on the cross, rising to new life, promising US new life. But so often Christians don't grow in their faith quite like they should - they don't move on into the things of God either because they don't commit to community or don't take time to read the Word like we talked about two weeks or POTENTIALLY is simply because they haven't heard HOW to become like Jesus. HOW to hear the Spirit... so today we're going to spend our time doing just that.
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- **■ Heb 3:15 "Today if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts."**
- Scripture makes it clear that each of us can hear God's voice. At our Kinsman campus there's been a remarkable about of former Catholics receiving Christ in the last 6 months. Virtually all of them have told us Pastors at Starting Point "It's amazing that I'm being encouraged to hear God's voice. My priest always indicated to us that only he could hear from God.
- *CP spend time talking about Jesus being our Good Shepherd - John 10 - He wants us to hear Him and He wants us to listen.*
- What we really want you to hear today is this idea that God wants to give you specific instructions - specific things to do alongside Him - partnering with Him to bring His Kingdom to earth. And it's not just about "performance" Doing things FOR God. It's about being WITH God - enjoying His nearness and friendship - but yes, ALSO, accomplishing what He asks of you.
- Transition by reiterating the HOOK: **Just like the disciples learned to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God, we learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, change what needs changed and establish the Kingdom of God**

If we were to codify or chart what it means to follow Jesus, we could say this ...

■ #2 Following Jesus looks like this: Listen, Repent, Believe, Obey, Enjoy

● **■ A. LISTEN**

First, we listen and observe by pausing and asking "What is God saying to me?" We need to quiet our inner voice so we can truly listen to the Spirit and observe what He is doing in us and in our environment. Sometimes it's as simple as asking, "Why did it hurt so much when they said that?" It could be that a relationship has failed and you wonder,


"What is God trying to teach me in this?" It could be something painful at work and you ask, "Why is this happening?" Or it could be a sudden moment of insight and clarity, when a deeper issue of the heart is unearthed. These are Jesus's invitations for the Kingdom of God to expand in your heart and life. The first thing we have to do is observe and listen for the Spirit's voice in the everyday moments. Jesus has given us the Spirit to teach us and guide us in all of life, so let's learn to listen to Him.

- **Don't just let life happen moving from one thing to the next, one conversation or apt or task to the next one. Pause and listen for the Spirit of God** - the voice of Jesus your Good Shepherd and ask Him "Did I treat that person well in that conversation?" Or "Why do I feel disappointed right now on the heels of that meeting?" Is there something you're trying to teach me right now? Is there an insecurity you want to root out?
- Or in the positive sense... "Jesus, why do I feel so excited about this topic or this event? Is there more here? Is this an area you want me to take leadership in?"
- *Example Pastor, give a story of when you felt God slow you down and have you assess how you spoke to someone - be candid and if possible give at least one example of when God corrected you - made you aware of a harsh tone or bad attitude that needed changed.*
- Gal 3 "Clothe yourself with ..."
- Kindness is a choice. Sometimes I wake up on the wrong side of the bed. ...lol
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- **Listen, the first piece of this process, is also includes reading the Word.** In ESSENTIALS week 1 of this series we spent the whole sermon talking about what the Word of God does for us as it brings us into alignment with Truth. How it opens our eyes to see what's coming in current events - orchestrated ahead of time. How God will speak to us CLEARLY what we need to learn right in the Bible IF we allocate time every day or at least 4 days per week to get into the WORD! So this first action of LISTENING involves reading His Word as well.



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● **B. REPENT**


- We often think of "repent" only in the sense of being entrenched in sin and needing to be forgiven. While that's often the case, the word simply means to turn from entirely and change - go in new direction. And because we're not in heaven yet, we are fighting our old nature - the sin nature that tries to get us to live selfishly like we used to before getting saved. So REPENT for our use today - don't always mean you're sinning - but rather that you have to TURN FROM your old way and embrace GOD'S WAY.
- I have to repent in the sense of turning from my old way of thinking. We had a verse last week talking about putting on the new nature and clothing ourselves in kindness, love, gentleness... we have to take PART and be active in our sanctification process. We can't just hope God'
- **What does it actually mean to "follow Jesus?"**

- It looks like LISTENING then REPENTING. When God speaks to you about an attitude or mindset that needs to change, we respond and repent - right away. We reject the old way of thinking - how we USED to live and we embrace what the Spirit of God is teaching us. WHEN we do that we are letting the Kingdom of God expand in our hearts.
- There's a training going on if you will. Just like Jesus trained Peter, James, John Andrew Phillip and all these guys to think differently - to think less of themselves and their needs and more of others and their needs, likewise the Holy Spirit is here in our hearts teaching us how to repent of old (selfish) ways of thinking and embrace Jesus-thinking - thoughts that put OTHERS first.
-  **Isaiah 30:21** “Your ears shall hear a voice behind you saying ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” God wants to give us CLEAR guidance.
- When God speaks and we obey, we feel aligned with the Father. The pentecostal term or phrase you may have heard is “bears witness with my spirit” *Pastor expound*


-  **C. OBEY**

- **James 1:14-25** ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.
-  ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?
-  ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Eugene Peterson, a general in God's army and theologian says...

 **“Christian discipleship is a long obedience in the same direction.” -**

Eugene Peterson

- Jesus invites us into HIS way of doing things - HIS way of thinking and HIS way of living. That involves not just a turning away from sin but **a turning towards something.**
-  **Following Jesus' voice is not just leaving behind but it's also**

embracing the NEW thing ahead.

This is where Christian living becomes ... FUN! You've heard me say before and I'll say it again... Following Jesus is an adventure ...at least it should be. He is always invited us to exercise our faith and

- Acts - Paul and the guys having to GO to Macedonia after receiving a vision in a dream of a man inviting them ... takes FAITH.
- *STORY > Personal or a great story that illustrates how God asks us specifically to do specific things to build His kingdom (love people well)*
- **■ Faith is ACTIVE never passive. Yes we wait on God sometimes but often God speaks and wants us to ACT.**
- This also has to do with stewardship. I've taught on that alot here but I have to quickly say again That stewardship is our 3rd and primary role as humans on this planet. Our first role is child, our second role is servant and our third role is steward. King Jesus gives us things to steward and we can only give Him a good return on His investment IF we are active. Good stewardship is NEVER passive. Good Steward never says "I'm just waiting on God to ____" Yes we wait on God to speak to us but once He does, it's time to ACT on what He spoke. This is where most God-dreams come to die - the spot between hearing and obey in faith.
- *CP share a personal story of when Jesus stretched your faith and asked you to embrace a new season - to DO something active, try something NEW... GO somewhere new...*

But How do I KNOW God is Speaking?

7 Things To Remember When It Comes To God's Voice

- **God's voice to you will never contradict the written Word of God**
 - Expound: God's Spirit won't tell you to spend all your spouses money without asking them (contradicts 1 Cor and Gal. instruction on marriage) God won't tell you it's ok to sleep together before you're married. (Ephesians is clear about sex being a blessing for only you and your spouse)
- **The instruction may not be found in your Bible**
 - (Go to gas station, pay for gas; Bring a meal to Bob's house and pray with him "Bob" may not be a name in the Bible but the principle holds true: generosity, empathy, etc) God's Spirit may tell you to serve in RSK. You won't see "RSK" in the Bible. But you will see over and over "bring the children to Me..." "Become like a child..." "Serve the least of these..."
- **God's voice is kind. Satan pushes. God leads.**

If the voice is bringing anxiety and angst and shame, it's not God. If it's a loving nudge, it might be God.

- **God will lead you to be Christlike: generous, forgiving, preferring others**
If the voice tells you a specific way to serve someone, it's almost 100% God. Your sinful nature will not compel you to prefer someone else. Nor will Satan.
- **The message may seem illogical or odd**
Beth Moore was asked by HS to brush a woman's hair in airport. She obeyed and woman said "I grew up without a mother. I never had a mom to brush my hair and I was just thinking about that!!! How did you know?..." Beth said "God loves you!" Etc
Personal Story from Preacher ...
- **God will never guide you to embarrass someone.**
If someone says "God told me to tell you that you are _____" and it's sin or harsh or negative and in front of people that's against the instructions on conflict resolution in Word.
- **God will always glorify Jesus, not so much you.**
If the prompt is to pray for someone, yes it's God. If it's to gloat, it's prompt not God. If it's to invite someone into a discussion about Jesus, it's prob God. If it's to ...

- **NOTE to read more about faith and how it works, read Hebrews 11**

- **📖 Kairos | Kronos**

- When we're in these kairos moments of God speaking, there's an unmistakable voice in our chest - a knowing that HEAVEN is stepping into my earthly reality. Something is *happening*. ... *now!*

The difference of Kairos and Kronos time is amazing.

📖 Kairos time is when GOD interrupts the normative time and SPEAKS. Something monumental and even eternal is taking place. God is getting my attention! He has something He wants me to understand OR something He wants me to do.

Kronos time is always going and never stoping. You arrive here this morning somewhere between 9 and 10:15 and when you leave it'll be 11:30 or 12 depending on how many "AMENS" I get =>) and it WILL BE LATER than when you arrived bc you can NOT stop time.

- **📖 You can not stop time, but you can stop the move of the Kingdom of God when it comes to your participation.**
- So many Christians don't step into these kairos moments with God because they've been sold a lie that the Gifts of the Spirit ceased with the death of the Apostles OR because they simply don't engage. They've heard that God speaks, but there's no hunger to understand and hear. Quick question for you today - are you hungry? Are you thirsty for the things of God? Do YOU want to hear God speak?
- Joshua 10:12-14 shows us the most remarkable time when God had the Sun literally stand still while Israel defeated it's enemy in the sunlight. It's remarkable! To this day there are


really smart people who believe the sun was stuck in the sky at some point to account for leap year and other anomalies. => God wanted to intervene. God's people listened and obeyed and God DID intervene!

■ Often times the miracles you want to see in your life are on the other side of radical obedience.

- You can resist the Holy Spirit's work in your life! WOW! According to our Holy Spirit study we've done on Wed Nights we see in the Bible that we can grieve the Holy Spirit by ignoring His still small voice. OR we can make GOD SMILE by doing what He says. This is where we ENJOY GOD and ENJOY life!
- *Pastor - tell another personal story of when God spoke to you and it was specific and special and meant alot to you - maybe during a decision needing to be made - or just a comforting voice over something that was troubling you...*

● **■ D. ENJOY**

- **To chart out what it means to follow Jesus, we've said you've got to LISTEN, REPENT, BELIEVE, OBEY, ENJOY**
- **Many Christians are simply sour people not because someone hurt them, but because they have yet to embrace the new thing God has been trying to do in them. They don't get to see the view because they won't take the climb. The mountain is simply too scary.**
- There's an unmistakable joy in walking in the new thing God led you to walk in. I wonder how many dreams lie dead and dormant - all because of fear...? It's a joy that can't come any other way. Walking in obedience to the Spirit of God may cause you to lose some friends and there will definitely be times of testing. It can hurt to carry the cross. But I assure you that there's a joy in following the voice of Jesus and going where He leads you - a joy that can't come any other way! Isaiah 43 says Behold I do a *new* thing!
- There is such a JOY in seeing God's Kingdom be built! You will feel the joy of your Father in Heaven when you do HIS will and bring about HIS plan on the earth. You will feel the affections of Heaven when you focus not on yourself but on how you can serve others and bring them into the Family of God.
- **■ There are SPECIFIC people YOU are called to minister to!**
Following Jesus' voice is about letting His Spirit - His voice - nudge you to minister to someone - sharing with them the hope you have in Jesus or a simple pray for them - right then and there.
- *Preacher - tell a story of when God had you pray for someone in public / delivery man, clerk, etc.*
- When we ALL follow Jesus voice and don't assume someone else will do it, we will see revival in our region!

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-  Acts 15-16 Notice how they obeyed the voice of GOD giving them instructions
- Story of when God used someone to bless / challenge / correct you and how thankful you were that THEY obeyed and YOU RECEIVED the message from the Lord through them.
- Transition to next point by reiterating the hook but add a little... **Just like the disciples learned to listen to Jesus, change their minds, and establish the Kingdom of God, we learn to listen to the Spirit, change our minds, obey His voice and establish the Kingdom of God!**

// Conclusion

- In-Service Response
 - PRAYER TEAM INVITED UP TO PRAY FOR BAPTISM OF SPIRIT
 - Do you want to be FILLED with the Spirit of God? COME UP AND LET GOD FILL YOU!

Group Discussion Guide

Following Jesus Voice

Date of Sermon: Feb 18th, 2024

Just like the disciples learned to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God, we learn to listen, change and establish the Kingdom of God.

// Main Points

#1 Following Jesus after salvation is a process of sanctification

#2 Following Jesus looks like this: Listen, Repent, Believe, Obey, Enjoy

// Discussion Questions

1. Question 1 What is something that the Spirit of God (the voice of Jesus) corrected me about AFTER salvation? Was it a sour attitude towards my spouse / a boss / a coworker - let's be brutally honest and share about a time God loved us enough to correct us (sanctification)
2. Question 2 *now the fun part* ... Let's share (and I'll share first) a time when God asked us to enter the unknown - to obey Him in a new way - enter a new season - build His kingdom. Talk us through what it was like to Listen, Repent, Believe, Obey, Enjoy
3. Question 3 - *FUTURE TENSE* Does anyone have something in your heart that you feel God wants you to consider - something He wants you to do or simply explore doing - something you've been afraid to start? We want to hear it, dream with you, then pray with you for WISDOM (on how and when) and FAVOR (on who can help, finances, etc)