Audacious Hearing

1. **Intro: Welcome, Honor**
2. **QUESTION: Have you ever missed out on something great because you missed hearing?**
3. **ILL: From behind me I hear Stacey say, “I don’t think that’s the right piece.” Running through my mind…”Really, you trust me with our children but you don’t think I can select the right wood piece and screw?” So, I did what any good man would do, I kept going. How hard can it be, There’s screws & holes. I got this. I don’t need to hear. STACEY WAS TALKING AND I WASN’T HEARING!**
4. Jesus said over and over again when He would teach a parable or story lesson…

Matthew 13:9 NIV

**9 “Whoever has ears, let them hear.”** 9 “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” NKJV

1. Jesus is saying, *“Hey…All of you have Ears but some of you aren’t inclined to use them to receive what God is trying to say.” WHAT DID JESUS KNOW ABOUT HEARING?*
2. **GOD IS TALKING BUT ARE WE HEARING?**
3. **I THINK ABOUT THE** **PHARISEES**: The **Pharisees** were an influential religious group within Judaism in the time of Christ and the early church. They knew scripture like the back of their hand. Followed tradition and 600 plus laws. If anyone was going to recognize the Messiah, it would be these guys…
   1. Yet Jesus, the Son of God was right in front of them, and **they completely MISSED HIM!**
   2. **They MISSED HIM** because, **Jesus was Talking but the Pharisees weren’t HEARING**…If the Pharisee’s missed JESUS because of Hearing, is it possible we could do?
4. I think of our 40 Days of Prayer: Prayer isn’t designed to be Transactional One-Way Communication. God here’s what I want, God protect this decision I’m going to make, God, heal me.
5. **Prayer a 2 Way Convo: Many of us are talking TO God but not Hearing FROM God.**
6. There is NO GOOD RELATIONSHIP when there’s One-Way communication.
7. **Some of us are Missing God in areas of our lives where we desperately need Him so for the rest of the way we want to expose Truths about Hearing from God.**

**5 Truths about Hearing from God**

1. Samuel was given by his mother to be raised by a priest named Eli. These were dark times when God rarely spoke because of the hardened hearts of God’s people.
2. One evening as the lamp of the Lord was growing dim, symbolizing the times getting darker and darker. God speaks…

1 Samuel 3:4 Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” 5 And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” (The Lord Called Samuel)

1. **GOD is Speaking to Us!**
   1. The Lord called Samuel by name, and I believe the Lord knows and is calling your name too! IN THESE DARK TIMES, we need to know GOD IS SPEAKING!
   2. There are two primary Greek words that describe Scripture which are translated “word” in the New Testament.
   3. The first, **LOGOS**, refers principally to the total inspired **written Word of God** and to Jesus, who is the living Word. Logos is found in John 1:1 (In the beginning) and other verses.
   4. The second Greek word translated “word” is **RHEMA**, which refers to the **spoken word**. Rhema literally means an utterance (individually, collectively, or specifically). Examples are found in Acts 11:16. (I remembered the word of…)
   5. **KEY**: God’s Rhema (Spoken) Word will never conflict with His Logos Word.
   6. ILL: God’s never going to tell you to Cheat on your taxes, Cheat on your wife, Lie, steal because those are expressly not in line with His word!
   7. **He Speaks in**: Word, Impression on your heart, Thoughts, Pain, Song, Nudge, A Message like this or a conversation. *He may ask you to be generous, give you a warning about someone, ask you to forgive, remind you that you’re loved.*
   8. **ILL: 9 years ago, I was living in Tampa…God spoke to me on a visit to Fort Myers, “this is Home.” Sure enough God had huge plans for me here.**
   9. **MIP: What about us? How has God been speaking to Us over the 40 days?**

1 Sam 3:5 And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. (This happens 2 more times!) Samuel almost missed the message God was looking to give him because he went to the wrong source.

1. **God’s Voice Needs Priority over others.**
   1. Family, we might be missing the message because we’re looking to the Wrong source. *Don’t Miss the Message!!!*
   2. God may be speaking to us in a **TENSE CIRCUMSTANCE**, but we keep looking to a **Person** or an **Outcome** to resolve the tension.
   3. God may be speaking to us in our **PAIN**, but we keep looking to an addiction to resolve it.
   4. God may be speaking to us in our **FINANCIAL** need and God is trying to show us something about our hearts, but we are trying to solve it with a job.
   5. **ELIJAH**: I think about a prophet named **Elijah** who temporarily **lost God’s Voice as the Priority voice in a season of his life**.
   6. **ILL: Elijah** – In the heat of a battle, The voice of enemy grew louder than God’s.
      1. **His enemy Jezebel Threatened his life**. Elijah began to respond to the enemy’s voice. He ran, He wanted his life to end.
      2. He started to echo the voice of the enemy. “I’m not enough, I’m not significant”. He was in a tense circumstance but he was looking to his enemy and himself.
      3. It wasn’t until he went 40 days of a journey that he began to hear God’s voice. **A** **40 day FAST without any other voices!**
      4. Wind, Fire, Quake – But God’s voice wasn’t in those. It was in a gentle Whisper.
      5. **WE must stop thinking that the Loudest, or Most Dramatic voices are the most important voices! God may be speaking in a Whisper!**
   7. **MIP: What about us? What voices do we need to Fast to make God’s Voice Priority again? (News, Facebook news, conspiracy theories).**
   8. If you knew you would hear from God, would you do it?

Back to our story with God trying to Speak to Samuel…Eli addresses Samuel.

I Samuel 3: 6b-7 “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” 7 Now Samuel **did not yet know the Lord**: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

**Wait! I thought Samuel grew up in the church! I thought he served in church, on staff! WE can know the THINGS of God without KNOWING God.**

1. **To Know God is to Hear Him/To Hear Him is To Know Him**
   1. Samuel didn’t quite know God personally, so it was hard to distinguish His voice.
   2. **John 10:4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.**
   3. Jesus is saying my Sheep know my voice.
   4. ILL: Several shepherds could place their different flocks in one sheep pen. A Shepherd would be able to call his sheep to the gate and he wouldn’t lose or confuse one sheep because they could recognize his unique voice. **HOW – The Sheep spent time with the Shepherd, to Know Him & His Voice..**
   5. How will I know God? It takes practice to know God’s voice. Here’s why…God’s Voice isn’t the only one competing for your attention!

BACK TO SAMUEL…ELI COACHES SAMUEL ON WHAT TO SAY THE NEXT TIME HE HEARS…

I Samuel 3:10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, **“Speak, for your servant is listening.”**

1. **There is a Posture to Hearing God’s Voice.**
   1. There is a Physical Posture to Hearing…Lean in.
   2. Heart Posture to hearing is **Humility**. Samuel said, **“Your Servant”**
   3. **Samuel didn’t say God, I was raised in the church. God, I know scripture already. Samuel Said SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING!!!**
   4. Wrong Posture: **\*WHY AM WE NOT HEARING? Could it be Our Posture?**
      1. **Pride Deafening**: “I already Know the answer to…” “It’s their fault”(Anger)
      2. **Selective Hearing**: If we don’t want to hear it ALL, we hear none
      3. **Creative Hearing**: Adding/Taking Away: ILL: Kenya. (Submit what we hear to God’s word and at times to Godly counsel. Ask God to reveal and purify our motives.
   5. **ILL: High paying Job, Legal battle, Riddled Stress and Anxiety, losing sleep over money. I kept Prioritizing attorneys, financial advisors, sales quota, how do I get out of this. I feel on my knees and prayed. God said…”Right Size Your Tithe” I Selectively heard about Tithing before.**
   6. **IN A Moment I prioritized God’s voice and Postured myself to Hear God’s Voice, In THAT Moment God broke off months of stress with one word and one act of obedience.**
   7. What about us? What area of our lives are we not postured with humility to hear God?

1 Sam 3:11 And the Lord **said** to Samuel: “**See**, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.”

While Samuel was looking to Hear, God was inviting him to SEE.

1. **Our Hearing Affects Our SEEING.**
   1. God invites us to SEE things from His Perspective.
   2. What’s God’s perspective on my marriage, my finances, my relationships, my purpose, my priorities.
   3. I may have had a perspective that something is a Problem or a Roadblock but in God’s Perspective it’s Protection.
   4. **ILL: Come on, I believe God wants to invite some of us to SEE the New Thing God wants to Do. JOY, PURE, HOPE, SELF-CONTROL, STRONG, PURPOSE, SIGNIFICANCE!**
   5. Some of us have been wed to a negative perspective for so long that we can’t imagine there being another one. Yet, I believe many of us are longing for one.
   6. SLOW…Where do you need a different perspective?

Maybe this whole time you’ve been thinking ok ok, I get it. But I’m not sure I want to hear what God has to say….

Can I encourage you, the Voice of God is above everything else I described…The voice of a loving Father.

* Integrity: It will align with His word.
* Unconditional Love
* Affirmation
* Challenge
* Direction
* Correction
* Potential – ILL: Sat in the back of this auditorium and received a calling from God. It seemed impossible and improbable.
* When you hear what others don’t, you’ll do what others won’t do, you’ll experience what others don’t.