

Remnant Life Church  
January 21, 2024  
**Whose Voice Do You Hear?**  
John 10:22-30

Who do you listen to?

- The number of voices clamoring for your attention today are likely too numerous to count
- You have heard it said that we live in the information age
  - But that does not address that it has become an onslaught of noise constantly vying for your ear
  - And with that come the distractions that have made focus nearly impossible
  - It is, in part I believe, why the quality of many aspects of life today has so drastically taken a downturn
    - Manufacturing
    - The service industry
    - Even the appearance of our buildings, lands, and highways are deteriorating because fewer and fewer people can focus for more than just a few minutes, even seconds, at a time
- Entertainment is now king
  - To most people, silence or quietness is equal to boredom
  - I can even feel and hear people begin to start fidgeting if I pause before beginning the morning prayer
  - We never leave the house without our phones (me included)
  - And we are, in essence, saying the same thing to Google, Facebook, Siri, and Alexa – entertain me!
  - And we are now learning how to tie entertainment into other activities
    - Rod and me at the gym
    - We are a part of a handful of the 80 – 125 people in there without earbuds
    - So now we not only must be entertained but we are also distracted and isolated

Again, who do you listen to?

- And to add another important aspect to that question...how much time do you spend talking as opposed to the time you spend listening?
- What about the voices in your head? Do you know with certainty who they are?
  - I'm not talking about those that are classified as a mental illness; people who cannot distinguish between reality and what they hear in their heads
  - I mean the voice of our conscience, the voice of the Holy Spirit, and even the voice of the enemy
  - Whose voice are you listening to?
- I read some funny things quoted about the "voices in our head"
  - I know the voices in my head are not real, but man, some of their ideas are just awesome!
  - Each night, as I get ready for bed, 3 of the 4 voices in my head want me to go to sleep; the fourth one is wondering if penguins have knees

- You know you are in trouble when you realize one of the voices in your head is speaking with a British accent.
- What this really comes down to is who or what do you give your attention to?
  - With so many real and artificial stimuli vying for you to notice them
  - How do you weed out the good from the bad, the real from the fake, and the positive from the negative and often dangerous?

It will not surprise you, I'm sure, that what I am going to tell you is that the voice you must give your attention to is the voice of God the Father, through the person of Jesus Christ in the presence of the Holy Spirit

- It is the voice of truth, love, and virtue
- It is a voice that cannot lie even as one of the voices calling to you only speaks in lies
- It is a voice that is calling to you even as you sit here this morning
- But what must be addressed this morning is how you distinguish His voice from all the others.

### **READ - John 10:22-30**

God has been speaking to us since the dawn of creation

- He walked the Garden of Eden with Adam and spoke with him about His creation (**Gen 2:16-17**)
- He spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai, giving Him the 10 Commandments (**Ex 20**)
- He then spoke through the prophets, beginning with Moses through to Malachi
- God then spoke through His Son Jesus throughout the course of His 3-year ministry
- God continues to speak to us today through the voice of the Holy Spirit

I would like to address a few questions this morning regarding whose voice we listen to:

#### First, what is the voice you are listening to?

- Today, there are many false voices talking, even screaming at us to get us to listen
  - Adam and Eve listened to a false voice telling them that the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil would not harm them
  - Jonah allowed a false voice to convince him that it was better to run away than obey what God was telling Him to do
  - Peter listened to a false voice convince him that it was better to lie and protect himself rather than become associated with Jesus at the time of His arrest
- How do you tell the voice of God through the Holy Spirit?
  - You must spend time with Him through prayer and the reading of His Word
  - It is in time together that we develop the ability to not only listen but hear
  - A former children's pastor demonstrated this truth in an exercise one Sunday. He blindfolded several of the children in the group of nearly 100 kids who he knew had best friends in the same room. He gave the best friend a candy bar and said they could share it if their friend could find them by only the sound of their voice. When he said "go" the friends would remain where they are while all of the children were to start talking and in every case the friends found each other.
- It is an intimate relationship that the masses, the crowd, will most often miss

- **John 10:22-26** (READ)
- They missed what Jesus was doing because they did not know His voice
- And if you do not know His voice, you will too

Second, where is the voice you are listening to leading you?

- **John 10:27-28** (READ)
  - This is the place you must be the most careful to make sure it is the right voice
  - Many voices will lead you to places you want to go but are not necessarily in God's direction
    - Whatever your flesh desires, you can always find someone who will tell you it is okay
    - This is why listening today to things like podcasts can be very dangerous
      - There is nothing in place to test or vet the truth of what is being said
      - Public airways are not synonymous with truth; as a matter of fact, the more public the platform, the more wary and cautious you should be
      - Listen to what Paul says in addressing this very thing
        - **2 Tim 4:3** – *For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*
      - Are you listening to the voices that only tell you what you want to hear, or are you seeking the truth of God's voice through His Word?
        - A voice that speaks anything that is contrary to the Word of God is the wrong voice
        - God loves us and desires to bless us, but he is more concerned about your purity, holiness, and obedience than He is about your prosperity, health, or worldly successes
        - **Matt 6:33** – *But seek first His kingdom, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Third, not only where is the voice taking you, but when?

- Are you listening to a voice that will cause you to focus on the things that are temporary or eternal?
- This brings us once again to the difference between happiness and joy
  - The entertainment business and Madison Avenue invest billions of dollars every year in what they do because people will spend billions of dollars to find just a little bit of happiness
    - Something that is fleeting
    - Most often nothing more than a pretty lie
      - People will walk away from spouses, families, jobs, and commitments with the words "I'm not happy" as their only reason
      - Only to find out that what they were chasing was as temporary and fleeting as the voice they were listening to

- Happiness is temporary, joy is lasting and, for the Christian, a foundational part of our lives in Jesus Christ
  - The word joy appears nearly 250 times in the Bible – while the word happy or happiness only 26 times
  - And it serves as a wellspring of strength for our lives as we deal with the day-to-day challenges
  - **Neh 8:10** - ...*the joy of the Lord is your strength*
- Some of the loudest voices today will tell you that they will bring happiness, but it is a temporary place
- The voice of the Lord is one that brings the permanence of joy

The final thing to consider is the question of why you are listening to the voice you do.

- Again, the three primary voices of life are our own, the voice of the enemy, and the voice of God
  - One way to get your answer is to honestly assess whether you are listening to the voice that only justifies and confirms what feels best to you
    - Are you primarily seeking gratification and happiness right now?
    - The easiest road? What brings satisfaction the quickest?
  - Or are you seeking the things that are eternal in value?
    - That eternity begins with your relationship with the One who laid down His life for you
    - It is knowing that you must be familiar with His voice to pick it out of the countless voices all clamoring for your attention
- Following His voice is the only way to live daily in a way that is victorious and brings not just happiness but joy and peace in the storms.
- The only way you will know His voice, be able to pick His voice from among all the noise, is to spend time with Him
- Take the time to weed out the distractions and give your attention to the voice that speaks truth, love, and everlasting life.