

When HE Speaks

All or Nothing

We choose what we hear (Matthew 13:10-13). Because we are selective of what we hear, to encounter God's voice and what He is saying requires a purposeful choice to listen. God rarely, if ever shouts. He whispers in order to reveal the secrets of His heart and Kingdom. God whispers to us primarily through Scripture. His Word, that is living and active, discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. When we engage Scripture, God speaks in such a way that we are uncovered and naked before Him. He brings to the surface the precise things He wants to work in and through to bring healing and transformation, to give us true rest.

GET THINGS STARTED

In His message, Pastor David makes the point that we all practice *selective listening*. How does this work in your own life? What do you choose to listen to and to ignore? What would your family or close friends say you listen to and ignore?

GO DEEPER

1. From Matthew 13:10-13, what answer did Jesus give to the disciples when they asked Him why He teaches in parables? What did He mean by His response?
2. According to 1 Kings 19:11-13, what was the voice of God like? Why do you think He speaks in this way?
3. In Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is described as being *living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart*. How does God, through Scripture, discern the thoughts and intentions of our hearts?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Pastor David recommended, in His message, that we **read the red, pray the red, and obey the red**, speaking specifically about the words of Jesus in the Bible. Which of these three are the most challenging to you, and why?
2. Do you *selectively listen* to God? Why is hearing God, especially in Scripture, an all or nothing endeavor?
3. What do you think it takes to not just read Scripture as a book out of duty, but to hear God through the quickening and stirring of the Holy Spirit as we read?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to invite our Heavenly Father, through the Holy Spirit, to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him for an increased desire to spend time with Him in Scripture, allowing Him to expose and heal the deep things of our hearts. Ask Him for grace to read, pray, and obey all that He has to say in His Word.