

Hearing the Voice of Jesus: What it Means to Follow Him Today

November-January

Wednesday Evening Lessons



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **November 11—“Follow Me”**
- **November 18—“Listen to Me”**
- **November 25—[Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner]**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **December 2—“Understand Me”**
- **December 9—“Crowd Me”**
- **December 16—“Touch Me”**
- **December 23—“Interrupt Me”**
- **December 30—“Fear Me”**



Hearing the Voice of Jesus

- **January 6—“Believe Me”**
- **January 13—“Pray with Me”**
- **January 20—“Suffer with Me”**
- **January 27—“Preach Me”**



November 11—“Follow Me”

Introduction

- We no longer hear his physical voice.
- But in the gospels we hear his voice calling us today
- Many competing voices in culture for our attention.
- Hearing and paying attention two different things. “He that has an ear to hear.



Introduction



- **Hearing itself can be impaired. What keeps us from hearing Jesus' voice?**
- **Reason this series is important—we claim to be a church of *Christ*.**
- **Eleven lessons in this series—
Tonight—"Follow Me."**
- **Quote: "Jesus...doesn't ask us..."**

1. INITIAL FOLLOWING MAY BE INCOMPLETE

- **Amazing that at the beginning Jesus does not require complete understanding for following to occur!**
- **He had to work with his disciples 3 ½ years.**
- **Our own initial following was incomplete.**
- **We, too, must be patient when calling others to follow Jesus.**

1. INITIAL FOLLOWING MAY BE INCOMPLETE



- **Many promised military response to oppression**
- **John the Baptist is not the one, Mark 1:7.**
- **Many Jews saw authority, power and wisdom of Jesus but still did not accept or follow him.**
- **Simon, Andrew, James and John dropped their nets but for incomplete reasons based on Messianism and political aspirations.**

2.FIRST DISCIPLES STRUGGLED WITH HEARING HIM

- **Mark 4:35-41**, Who is this?
- **Mark 8:31-32**, Peter disagreed
- **Mark 9:32**, disciples did not understand...but they were afraid to ask.
- Excursus here on “being afraid to ask.”



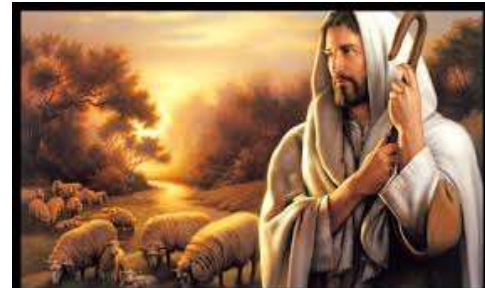
3. JESUS STRUGGLED WITH HOW THEY HEARD AND FOLLOWED!

- Don't you understand? (4:13)
- Why are you so afraid? (4:40)
- Are you so dull?...Don't you see?(7:18)
- Do you still see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? (8:17)



4. FOLLOW ME INSTEAD OF SOMEONE ELSE

- Exclusive claim of Jesus
- Personal aspirations, ambitions etc. must be crucified in order for me to follow Jesus.
- Cultural values can become our idols to replace Jesus.
- Sometimes comes in the form of denial like Peter.
- Who do you say that I am?



5. FOLLOW ME FROM WHERE YOU ARE

- Early followers came to Jesus with problems and flaws.
- Stubborn, selfish, misguided—but Jesus began to work with them where they were.
- Interesting to note that he worked with them 3 and half years, and they still did not get it.
- **Acts 1**—will you restore the kingdom of Israel?
- Good example of Peter



VI. FOLLOW ME TO MY DESTINATION



- We know from **14:51** and **52** it involves risk. Young man fled.
- Many would-be followers
- Jesus asked his original followers, “You do not want to leave, too, do you?” (**John 6:67**).
- Their answer was, “To whom shall we go?” (**6:68**).
- Jesus did describe another way: wide and leads to destruction (**Matthew 7:13**).

VII. FOLLOW ME IN MY MISSION



- We can only guess...
- Our initial efforts at ministry/serving are awkward and simplistic; perhaps even rigid and legalistic
- But the longer we take on Jesus' mission and follow him...
- The final command "Go," we put it in the framework of Jesus' ministry
- The Great Commission—a fitting conclusion!
- The rest of our Christian walk

Conclusion



- **Follow Me**...begins with immature understanding, we struggle to hear him on his own terms, Jesus struggles with working through us, we follow him exclusively, we start from where we are, we follow him to his destination, we embrace his mission as we follow!