

## John 10:27

*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

“*Didn’t you hear me calling you?*” Remember when our mom’s used to say to us when we were kids, and we would say, “*No.*” But the reality was that we were ignoring them. Or even today, parents will call their kids from another room, and they don’t hear them, because the kids have their headphones on, and they are tuned out to the things going on around them. Even as adults we do the same thing, wearing noise canceling headphones so we can’t hear those around us. Not that headphones are bad, because I have them and wear them a lot myself, listening to music or teaching.

But as we read today’s verse, and take out the middle portion, it would read as “*My sheep hear My voice, and they follow Me.*” So, if that’s the case, how can we say that we are following Jesus if we are not listening to His voice?

“*Well, I have never heard Jesus’ voice before*” you may be thinking, and honestly, neither have I, at least not like Moses heard God speaking to him.

† **Exodus 33:11a** *So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*

Could you imagine that I mean God talking to you just like you talk with your spouse or friend or family member “*face to face*”? That would be amazing, and scary at the same time, just like the children of Israel said to Moses.

† **Exodus 20:19** **Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."**

But how many will question God or Jesus, or even shake their fist at Him like they know better than God. Some even say, “*When I die, I have some questions for God.*” Really? If that is you, here is God’s response even now.

† **Job 38:3** *Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*

But today’s devotional is not about questioning God or Jesus. But once again, “*How can we say we are following Jesus if we are not listening to His voice?*” The answer is that we hear His voice as we read His word. So, if we are not hearing from God, it could be that we are not listening to our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, by spending time in His word.

I have heard stories about shepherds and sheep and how the sheep know the shepherd simply by the sound of his voice. So, if anyone else came to the flock of sheep and said, “*Follow me sheep*” the sheep would ignore the one saying it. But if the shepherd called to his sheep, notice I

said “his sheep” not just any shepherd, but it must be the shepherd of those sheep. If they hear his voice they will come and follow the shepherd.

So if we are spending all our time on social media, or watching TV, or listening to secular music, or watching YouTube videos, then no wonder we struggle with hearing the voice of Jesus, or with our walk with the Lord, because we can’t hear the voice of our shepherd calling out to us, telling us that what we are doing, or the way we are heading will lead us off a cliff and we will plunge to our death, all because the voice of the shepherd is unfamiliar to us. So, if we are so used to the sound of the world, no wonder the sound of the Good Shepherd seems so odd or unfamiliar to us.

So, let’s ask ourselves, who’s voice are we following, the voice of the world, or the voice of our Lord and Savior Jesus? How do you know which one you are following? Simply by where you are heading to throughout the day.

- † **John 10:1-5 (MSG)** *"Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he's up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won't follow a stranger's voice but will scatter because they aren't used to the sound of it."*
  
- † **Matthew 6:24** *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*