

**SUNDAY 7.04.2024**

**KNOWING GOD'S VOICE**

**JOHN 10:1-10 NIV.**

▶ “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice.

He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 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. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”



Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

# INTRODUCTION

The bible shows that God has been talking to people all the way from Genesis to revelation. For example:



► In Genesis, the man and his wife heard the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:18).

▶ The Lord reminded Moses, “You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. 12 Then the Lord spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. (Deut. 4:11-12).



What does it mean to know God's voice in this generation where we have so many other voices or even languages that are more appealing.

**1. We need to know that we have a good shepherd.**

**a) Jesus begins by describing himself as a good shepherd. A good shepherd enters the sheep pen openly, by means of the gate. A good shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out (1-3).**

**b)** A good shepherd has a caring voice. The Pharisees, were by extension "bad" shepherds, unwilling to truly care for those they claimed to serve, on the contrast, Jesus was willing to put His life on the line for the flock.



## **2. We need to position ourselves close to God.**

**a)** Verse 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.

**b)** Hanna is a good example of how we can position ourselves, Hanna experienced dry seasons. The Bible says, “... In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.” (1 Samuel 3:1). Hanna never gave up.

c) Three times the Lord called out to Samuel, and three times Samuel went to Eli the priest, confusing the voice of God with the voice of Eli (vv. 4–9). At Eli's direction, the young boy asked to hear from God the fourth time the Lord called to him.



d) This was a reward for Hanna's consistency even when she was ridiculed and called a drunkard.

We can position ourselves by doing the same.

### **3. Walking in obedience.**

a) Verse 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.”

**b)** Laodicea was one of the seven churches Jesus addressed in the book of Revelation. It was the only church out of the seven churches which received no praise from Jesus, only rebuke. We can be the same, if we get to a point where we feel like we don't need anything from God.



c) Revelation pictures Jesus outside the Church at Laodicea saying, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (Rev. 3:20).

▶ I am not sure whether they knew what God was about to do;

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm neither hot nor cold I am about to spit you out of my mouth. (Rev. 3:15-16).



▶ “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked, 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; ... (Rev. 3:17-18).



▶ God wants a relationship with us, but relationships aren't just on Sundays, he wants a relationship all the time. We need to desire to know that voice every day.

▶ “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.” (Hebrews 3:15)