October 18, 2026
"What Turns Down the Volume of God's Voice?"
Luke 10:38–42
Pastor Austin Hamrick

Does God still speak to us? Why does it seem like God spoke audibly to people in the Bible but not to us? Why can't I hear Him speak to me? In today's Bible study, Pastor Austin unpacks these questions in a message entitled "What Turns Down the Volume of God's Voice?"

1. **Luke 10:38–42** – *"[38] Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. [40] But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' [41] And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. [42] But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.'"*

2. Looking more like our Father
    a. As we grow up, we pick up our parents' mannerisms. In the same way, as we grow as Believers, we should begin to imitate our Heavenly Father.
        i. **DISCUSS**: What have you picked up from your Father as you have grown closer to Him?
    b. The goal of the Christian life is to look more like the Lord, and we need to hear from God to become more like Him.
        i. God wants all Believers to be *"conformed to the image of His Son"* (**Romans 8:29**).
        ii. God spoke audibly throughout the Bible:
            1. He spoke to Moses in **Exodus 3**.
            2. He spoke to Joshua in **Joshua 1**.
            3. He spoke to Gideon in **Judges 6**.
            4. He spoke to Samuel in **1 Samuel 13**.
            5. He spoke to Paul in **Acts 9**.
        iii. But these Biblical examples occurred over 4,000 years of human history.
        iv. God can still speak audibly, but that is the exception—not the rule.
        v. The primary way God speaks to us now is through Jesus.
            1. **Hebrews 1:1–2** – *"[1] God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has*

appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds."

vi. We know what Jesus says through the Bible.
1. Jesus is the Word personified.
2. **John 1:1** – *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*
3. If you hear a voice telling you to act contrary to Scripture, that is not the voice of God. It is your voice or Satan's.

c. God wants us to regularly listen for His voice.
i. God will often use His Word to impress His encouragement, instruction, and correction.
ii. The God of the universe desires to daily engage with His people.
1. As our Father, He desires to engage with us.
2. **Psalm 37:23** – *"The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives."* (NLT)
3. Satan seeks to bring as many souls down to hell with him as he can. We must wake up, listen to God, and reach out to the lost.

3. The struggle to hear from God
a. If you are unable to recognize God's voice and have never heard Him speak to you, you may not belong to Him.
i. **John 10:27** – *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."*
ii. **2 Timothy 3:16** – *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*
1. **DISCUSS**: How has God spoken to you through His Word?

b. It is possible for Believers to go through times where we struggle to hear from the Lord.
i. Four things turn down the volume of God's voice:
1. A distracted life.
2. An unrepentant life.
3. A comfortable life.
4. A prideful life.

4. A distracted life
a. Distractions can keep us from hearing the voice of God.
i. **Luke 10:38–42** – "*[38] Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. [39] And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. [40] But Martha was distracted*

with much serving, and she approached Him and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.' [41] And Jesus answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. [42] But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

ii. Jesus' answer shows us that doing things for God is not the same as spending time with God.

b. In **Revelation 2**, Jesus commended the Ephesians for their good works and discernment but rebuked them for falling out of love with Him.

i. God wants our good works to be an overflow of our relationship with Him.

1. **Revelation 2:4b** – *"You don't love me or each other as you did at first!"* (NLT)
2. God wanted the Ephesians to *"repent and do the first works"* (verse 5), but out of love.
3. **DISCUSS**: Does God only have your hands, or does He also have your heart?

ii. If the Enemy can't bring us to disobey God, He will try to distract us.

1. A good thing becomes a bad thing when it keeps us from the best thing: loving God.
2. **DISCUSS**: What distracts you from loving God above all? What do you need to put aside to focus on Him?
3. In **1 Kings 18**, God showed up for Elijah and set fire to his offering on Mount Carmel.
4. As a result, Jezebel threatened to have Elijah killed and he fled.
5. **1 Kings 19:11–12** – God told Elijah, *"[11] 'Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.' And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. [12] and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice."*
6. Our God is the God of the miraculous, but we should not be so busy looking for the supernatural that we miss the still, small voice of the Lord.
7. Someone once said, "If you can't embrace silence, then you can't hear from a God who specializes in whispers."
8. Let God interrupt your background noise.

9. Set aside the distractions, if only for a season, so you can focus on God.
10. If you don't learn to be silent before God, you will become reliant on signs.
11. **DISCUSS**: When has God called you to put away your background noise so you may hear from Him? Are you comfortable in the silence?

5. An unrepentant life
    a. An unrepentant life stops us from hearing the voice of God.
        i. **2 Chronicles 33:9–13** – *"[9] So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. [10] And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. [11] Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. [12] Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, [13] and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God."*
            1. Sin hardens hearts and deafens ears.
            2. We need to keep short accounts with God.
            3. Sometimes God uses affliction to get our attention (verse 12).
            4. God's discipline comes from a place of love, *"for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives"* (**Hebrews 12:6**).
    b. Even as Believers, we can ignore the voice of God because of our sin.
        i. Ask the Lord to search your heart so you may get rid of the sin standing in the way of your communion with God.
        ii. **DISCUSS**: What do you need to repent of? Have you asked the Lord to soften your heart? How has the Lord answered?

6. A comfortable life
    a. Comfort can distract us from the voice of God.
        i. **Jeremiah 22:21** – *"I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not hear.' This has been your manner from your youth, that you did not obey My voice."*
            1. The Hebrew word translated as "prosperity" means "ease, security, tranquility, comfort."

2. Prosperity is not wrong—many people in the Bible were wealthy—but it can keep us from recognizing we need the Lord.
3. If our stuff becomes our security, we commit idolatry.

b. Francis Bacon said, "Money is a great servant but a bad master."
   i. **1 Timothy 6:10a** – *"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."*

7. A prideful life
   a. God speaks to the humble.
      i. **Psalm 25:9** – *"The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way."*
      ii. **Isaiah 66:2b** – *"On this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."*
         1. **DISCUSS**: What does it mean to tremble at God's Word? How does the fear of God change your view of yourself and how you choose to live?
   b. God calls us to be soberminded.
      i. Being soberminded is not about having low self-esteem, but a right view of yourself.
         1. **DISCUSS**: How has Christ changed your identity and your view of yourself (**Romans 8:37**; **1 John 3:1**)? How does that affect your behavior (**Colossians 3:2**)?
      ii. Pride drowns out the sound wisdom of God's voice.
         1. On April 15, 1912, the Titanic sank.
         2. But on April 14, the SS Californian was just ahead. The operator radioed the Titanic, to warn about the dangerous ice ahead.
         3. The man operating the Titanic replied, "Shut up, I am busy."
   c. While you still breathe, you have time to humble yourself before the Lord.
      i. Repenting is not about adding religion to your life, but about forming a relationship with your Creator.
         1. **Revelation 3:20** – *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."* (ESV)
      ii. Do not harden yourself against the voice of God.
         1. **Hebrews 3:15** – *"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James (NKJV)