

A Disciplined Listener Of Truth  
John 16:12-15

## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- Have you ever been awakened in the middle of the night by an unusual sound
  - Instantly wide awake, ears on fullest alert, mind searching for any hint of danger, thinking of a plan of action
  - A good description of you would be a “Disciplined or Alert Listener”
- Disciplined - able to carefully control the way that you work, live, or behave, especially to achieve a goal
- We have been looking at the questions, “What is a disciple of Jesus?”
  - Not so much yet about what they do, but who are they?

## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- Transforming children of God
  - **Matthew 4:19 NIV**, “Come, Follow Me, and I will make”
  - **2nd Corinthians 3:18 NIV**, “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
  - The Holy Spirit surrounding us as a cocoon around a caterpillar
    - The old nature being dissolved and replaced with the new nature and character of Jesus



## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- Sanctuaries for God's presence
  - **Ephesians 1:13-14 NCV**, When you heard the true teaching—the Good News about your salvation—you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his special mark of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised. 14 That Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive what God promised for his people until God gives full freedom to those who are his—to bring praise to God's glory.

## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- Sanctuaries for God's presence
  - **2nd Corinthians 1:21-22 NCV**, 21 Remember, God is the One who makes you and us strong in Christ. God made us his chosen people. 22 He put his mark on us to show that we are his, and he put his Spirit in our hearts to be a guarantee for all he has promised.
  - As the Jewish temple was the designated place for God to meet with His people, He meets with us today through His Holy Spirit living in us
- Today we will see every born-again child of God disciple is to be a “*A Disciplined Listener Of Truth*”



## Scripture

- **John 16:12-15 NIV**, 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- It is amazing to me that the God of this universe who is completely and totally holy and just would want and make time for me
  - To be so interested in me to work about bringing the character of Jesus into the foreground of my life
  - He understands we are basically just dirt (*Ps. 104:14*)
  - He understands our flesh is weak, but our spirit is willing (*Matt. 26:41*)
  - Like the hymn writer penned, “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love.”
  - Despite all of that He loves us, believes in us, and nurtures us



## **One who has the voice of God directing their life**

- The disciple's lives were in utter turmoil like a small ship in a hurricane
  - They firmly believed Jesus was going to establish His earthly Kingdom now and they would rule with Him
  - They firmly believed Jesus was the promised Messiah



## **One who has the voice of God directing their life**

- What Jesus told them that evening shook their world
  - I'm going to be betrayed by one of them
  - The world will hate and persecute them
  - I'm going away to prepare a place for you
  - You will all fall away because of me
  - I'm going to be arrested, tried, condemned, crucified, die, and then rise again
  - You will have joy once again

## One who has the voice of God directing their life

- Their minds were spinning just trying to grasp the full meaning and unable to do so
  - Jesus understood, **John 16:12 NIV**, 12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.”
  - So, God promised an advocate, comforter, counselor to them and us



## One who has the voice of God directing their life

- **John 14:16-18 NIV**, 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans.
  - Let the image of an orphan swirl in your minds, what does that mean, look like
  - Can you hear the words; all alone, unguided, unwanted

## One who has the voice of God directing their life

- Hear Jesus say to His disciples and to you this morning
  - I will never leave you alone
  - I will never leave you without a family, a place where you fit and belong
  - I will never leave you without guidance from a father
  - I will never leave you unwanted
  - You are my cherished brothers and sisters and I love you



## **One who has the voice of God directing their life**

- Jesus explains how
  - I will place my voice within you through the Spirit of truth
  - You will know Him or He will make Himself known to you
  - For He lives with you by being in you

## One who has the voice of God directing their life

- Living this life can be daunting since we do not know what is ahead
- Can you hear your loving Savior say, “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.”
  - **John 16:12-15 NIV**, “he will tell you what is yet to come.” (*When it is time or needed*)
  - He knows what is ahead for you
  - He will tell you, lead you, prepare you for what is yet to come
  - “I will lead you, guide you, be your Shepherd”
  - “Even though you will walk through the valley of great darkness you do not have to fear any evil for I will be with you”



## One who has the mind of God speaking truth to them

- **1st Corinthians 2:16 NCV**, “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who has been able to teach him?” (*Isa. 40:13*) But we have the mind of Christ.
  - The question then is, “Who is whispering into your ear? Who are you listening to?”
  - Who was the whisper in Eve’s ear in the Garden
  - It appeared truthful, full of meaning, led to sinful thinking and desires
  - It led to the perfection of the Garden not being enough

## One who has the mind of God speaking truth to them

- **John 16:13 NIV**, 12 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” *Or “full and complete truth”*
  - We have a truthful guide as we live in this lost and corrupt world
  - We have not only the voice of God, but the mind of God as well in our lives leading us into truth
  - Into - expressing movement or action with the result that someone or something becomes enclosed or surrounded by something else
  - We will be surrounded, enclosed by absolute unchanging truth



## One who has the mind of God speaking truth to them

- **John 16:13 NIV**, 12 “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” Or “full and complete truth”
  - All truth – not truth that takes us only so far and we must figure out the rest, full and complete and timely truth
  - In other words, we will never be lacking in truth when it is really needed

## One who has the mind of God speaking truth to them

- **John 8:31-32 NIV**, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
  - If you hold to Scripture, search it, meditate on it, seek to understand, and practice it daily listening to the guidance of His voice, His Holy Spirit



## One who has the mind of God speaking truth to them

- **John 8:31-32 NIV**, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
  - There is a freedom that comes to our minds when we know the truth, scripture and can bring it into our current events and circumstances
  - There is a peace that can permeate every circumstance of life when we respond in truth
- We must learn to pray, *“Show me your truth Lord”* first before responding though our old nature

## One who can truly bring glory and honor to our Savior, Jesus Christ

- **Matthew 5:16 NIV**, In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
  - A disciple really has one primary purpose, to bring glory and honor to the name of the one who gave His life for us
  - We can never consistently do this in our own strength, wisdom
  - We can only become consistent when we are under the strength, power, and guidance of the Holy Spirit



## One who can truly bring glory and honor to our Savior, Jesus Christ

- **John 16:14 NIV**, “He will glorify me.” – How?
  - He will glorify Jesus by allowing you to see Him as He really is in greater depth and understanding
  - Leading you in a life grounded in the truth of His Word that glorifies Jesus Christ so others may turn to Him and be saved
  - **Psalms 19:1 NIV**, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
  - Our lives can add to the voice of heaven, to creation praising and glorifying our Savior, Jesus Christ

## **A Disciplined Listener Of Truth**

- As a born-again child of God, we will dedicate our lives to listen to that still small voice leading us to truth
  - We will meditate on the truth shown seeking to understand the depth and width of it
  - We will visualize how that truth can be used in our life
  - We will trust the Holy Spirit to bring that truth to our minds when needed



## A Disciplined Listener Of Truth

- As a born-again child of God, we will dedicate our lives to listen to that still small voice leading us to truth
  - We will decide ahead of time to trust it and be obedient to that truth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
  - We will leave the consequence of our trust into God's hands
  - And let us all say this morning, ***“To the praise and glory and honor of our Savior Jesus Christ, Amen and Amen!”***

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