"Stop Talking Start Listening"

John 10:1-27

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell

Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Individual Study Introduction

After listening to the audio segment, use the following questions as your time allows. You may want to record your answers or jot down thoughts and notes in a personal journal. You may also want to use your journal as a record of your prayer time with God. Write out your prayer or simply record your requests and the areas of your life you are releasing to God. This written record will help you to watch God's movement in your life. You'll see more clearly the ways God is giving you "strength for the journey"!

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell notes that we all have buttons on our car radios preset to our favorite stations. John 10 teaches us, in effect, that we should set all the "preset buttons" in our lives to Jesus' voice.

- How many radio stations do you have set up with preset buttons on your car radio?
- How much do you listen to the radio and/or CDs?

Strength through Scripture:

Read John 10:1-18.

1. In the first segment in this series, Joe stated that the first habit of effective listeners to God is that they embrace an awareness of the danger in their environment. The second habit is to welcome the presence of Christ in our lives (see John 10:2-3). How can we, as the "gatekeeper" of our lives, welcome in the Shepherd?

2. Do you agree with Joe that you can have Christ in your heart positionally, even though your heart's door might be slammed to Him every day of your life?

Notes:

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
John 10:27

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2 Corinthians 5:17

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3. The third habit of effective listeners to God is having an instinctive recognition of the voice of Jesus (see John 10:3). How well do you know the Shepherd's voice?

4. The fourth habit is fostering an inner desire to follow the voice of Christ (see John 10:4). How strong is your desire to follow the voice of Jesus?

5. The fifth habit is a refusal to entertain strange and harmful voices and a natural instinct to flee from them (see John 10:5). How have you seen someone led astray by friends or family, perhaps even by Christian friends or family?

Digging Deeper:

If you have enough time, answer one or more of these optional questions. But be sure to save time for the final two sections.

1. Read Revelation 3:20. What is the significance of the fact that this was written not to unbelievers but to Christians who had Christ's indwelling presence?

2. How does the story of the blind beggar's healing in John 9 serve as the backdrop for Jesus' words in John 10?

3. What is the closest you have come to being kicked out of someplace because of Jesus?

Strength through Reflection:

1. What is the most influential voice in your life—e.g., desires, friends, TV, music?

2. How can you better tune your heart to the voice of God and make His voice the most influential voice in your life?

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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments in prayer. Tell Jesus that you want to welcome His presence into your life and to listen to Him. You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Lord Jesus, I do want to tune my heart to Your voice. I want Your voice to be the most influential voice in my heart. I want to hear Your voice so often and know it so well that I would recognize it anywhere. When all the other voices are pounding my soul, I want to hear Your voice, and Your voice alone. Thank You for being my Shepherd, and that I shall never want."

Closing Call to Action:

Tune your heart to the voice of God. Make His voice the most influential voice in your heart. Let everything else be small talk, and let His voice guide every step you take today.

You will never regret listening to Him.

Notes:

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