



## Can You Hear Me Now?

How to hear God's voice in a noisy world.

Jason Perkins

### INTRODUCTION

In this message of *Can You Hear Me Now*, you will be introduced to how personal time with God can relate to hearing God's voice. Drawing from Jesus' teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, Jason explains how Jesus leverages devoted time with God to hear from God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the message Jason talked about the 'white noise' in our lives that hinders our ability to hear God's voice. What is the greatest white noise in your world?
2. How do you plan to turn down the white noise of your life so that you can better hear God's voice in your life?
3. Jason said that over time, **private disciplines often become personal devotions**, when it comes to discipline, where do you struggle the most?
4. Is there something you currently enjoy doing that began as a discipline? If so, what made the discipline become enjoyable?
5. Growing up, were you encouraged to develop habits that could be described as private spiritual disciplines? Things like prayer, devotions, giving, fasting, confession? Did any of these become habits that you have carried with you into adulthood? If so, which one? If not, why?

*Since strong human relationships are held together through discipline and self-control, we should not be too surprised to discover that our relationship with God requires the element of discipline as well.*

6. Can you think of disciplines you've developed that have strengthened your relationships with those you care about most? For example, calling your mom on a regular basis; coming home at a predetermined time; picking up after yourself; drinking less or not at all.

*Have someone read Matthew 6:5-6 and Mark 1:35. Jesus challenges his audience to engage in the discipline of private prayer.*

7. Which is easier, praying consistently or giving consistently? Why?
8. Why do you think Jesus instructs us to pray privately on a regular basis?
9. We tend to pray times of crisis. Do you think our crisis prayers would be different if we practiced the discipline of private prayer daily? If so, how?
10. Once again Jesus promises a reward, this time to those who pray privately. In your opinion, how are those who pray in private rewarded?

## MOVING FORWARD

The notion of a discipline being essential to an authentic, heart-felt relationship may seem strange. After all, discipline is about routine. A relationship is fluid. But if you think about it, every healthy relationship is held together partly by disciplined actions and routines. Perhaps the easiest way to understand the importance of discipline in a relationship is to consider a relationship without boundaries. All self-imposed boundaries are a form of discipline. Imagine a marriage in which neither partner practices self-control. The marriage would eventually deteriorate.

Our relationship with God shares a similar dynamic. Abandoning these practices leaves God at the periphery of our lives. Regularly practicing these disciplines, however, draw us into a closer, more intimate, more dependent relationship with our heavenly Father. What will you do this week to establish both giving, prayer or both as a regular discipline?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**Mark 1:35**