

I. Synopsis

We want to make the best decisions to life changing moments. Often we want to know for certain God's plan for our lives. If only we could open the Bible to page 45 and it literally gave the answer(s) we are seeking. We often wonder does God care about the decision, is there an answer. In most of our lives there is A LOT of noise that prevents us from the ability to hear what God is saying to us. During this two part series, we discover a few principles related to hearing God's Voice in our lives. And in the process we attempt to quiet some of the ambient noise, which is keeping us from discerning God's Voice.

II. Ice Breaker Question

Play the telephone game. Have the leader of the group whisper a sentence in the ear of the person sitting to his/her right. Have this person whisper in the person to his/her right the same sentence, repeating the process around the circle until it has reached the leader. Have the leader state the sentence that has gone around the circle. If the sentence is different, what factors caused the change?

III. Scripture: Mark 1:7-11(ESV)

(Discussion Questions on the back)

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What distractions exist in our culture that might prevent us from hearing each other? How is this problematic to our culture?
2. N.T. Wright describes “heavens being torn open” (Mark 1:10) as “God’s dimension behind the ordinary reality. It’s as though an invisible curtain, right in front of us, was suddenly pulled back, so that instead of the river, the sandy desert and the crowds, in the case of Jesus, we are standing in the presence of a different reality altogether.” The narrative records that God the Father affirms Jesus’ identity. Why do you suppose this is what God the Father chooses to state in that moment as heaven and earth meet? How does this have the potential to impact you?
3. The Gospels record that Jesus consistently spent time alone in prayer. Why do you suppose that God the Son spent time with God the Father? What does this teach us?
4. While Jesus walked on this earth, what distractions existed for Jesus that could have prevented Him from hearing God the Father’s Voice? What distractions exist in your life that prevent you from hearing God’s Voice? What steps might you take to quiet the ambient noise in your life so that you are better able to hear God’s Voice?

Wright, Nicholas Thomas, Mark for Everyone; Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, KY, 2004.