



Hearing God Through Godly Counsel

Announcements

- **301 Biblical Foundations** – Began June 11th at all campuses and it's not too late to join! This ten-week course will help you gain the understanding and necessary tools to live a victorious and successful Christian life. Childcare is provided. Register at www.churchoftheking.com.

Warm-up

Are you more likely to stop and ask for directions when you are lost or do you try to find the way on your own? Why?

Describe a time when listening to advice was beneficial.

Word & Application

Read John 10:27. It is important to remember God speaks to all believers. In today's discussion we are going to discover how God can speak to us through the counsel of other Christians.

Read Exodus 18:13-21, 24. Why do you think Moses' willingness to heed the advice of Jethro is significant?

Even though Moses had a great experience with God (Exodus 3) he recognized he had blind spots and needed help from men like Jethro. His willingness to hear God's voice through wise counsel led him to fulfilling his purpose and God's purpose for the nation of Israel.

What do these scriptures show us about the character of Moses?

Moses showed security and humility of character by listening to Jethro. A key to hearing God through others is to make sure we are secure and humble enough to allow people to have input into our lives, check our thoughts and our heart and help us discern God's voice.

Read 1 Corinthians 4:15. What does this verse teach us about whom we should surround ourselves with in order to receive godly counsel?

We have many ways to gather good information (books, podcasts, blogs, facebook, etc.), however you should give greater weight to the counsel of a spiritual mentor. A spiritual mentor knows you and is more interested in your well being than in their personal gain.

Through the rest of today's discussion we are going to talk about 3 reasons people miss hearing God through others.

The number one reason people miss hearing God's voice is **pride**.

Read Proverbs 12:15 and 18:1. What is the danger of living life without the counsel of godly people who care for you?

We have all experienced the embarrassment or pain of having blind spots (car accident, something stuck in our teeth, something stuck on the back of your shirt, etc.). God wants to direct us by sending people in our lives who will speak God's truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

Can you share about a time in your life when you listened to godly counsel and it really helped you?

The second reason we miss hearing God's voice through others is we had a **bad experience**.

Why do bad experience hinder us from hearing God through others?

In order to increase the likelihood of receiving good counsel we should stay connected to spiritually mature people with integrity.

The third reason we miss hearing God's voice is when we surround ourselves with "yes men."

Read Proverbs 11:14. With many counselors there is more of a chance of getting constructive criticism, which leads to balanced and reasonable conclusion. By being accountable to others we allow God to speak to us through those we surround ourselves with.

Read Proverbs 13:20. In order to live a life of accountability we must be **humble, teachable and honest**.

After today's discussion, how will you respond differently when God speaks to you through others?

Think of an area in your life where you have a "blind spot." Identify someone whom you think God can use to speak to you concerning that area.

Prayer

Ask God to help those in your small group to be able to clearly hear his voice through others. Take time to ask everybody in your group what specific prayer requests they have and also what prayers they have had answered recently.