

Listen to Him; Deuteronomy 18:15-19

I. Hear or Listen

- a. The last few days I've woken up to sirens
- b. I've heard them while at work in my office
- c. While I gather that someone might be hurt or in trouble, or I might have to move to the side of the road if I'm driving, they don't mean much more than that to me
- d. In the Air Force our dorms had sirens in them – we called them klaxons
- e. When they went off we knew important messages would follow – where to report, what gear to bring
- f. While I heard the sirens from my house and my office, I listened to the klaxon
- g. Deuteronomy 18:15–19 (ESV); ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

II. Obedience

- a. In the Hebrew, listen means to heed, comply, obey, or accept
- b. Merely hearing the words of this prophet would not be acceptable – the Israelites must obey them
- c. Peter repeats this after he and John heal the lame man at the gate Beautiful
- d. Peter is telling them to repent of their unbelief
- e. Acts 3:22–23 (ESV); ²² Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’
- f. When God tells us to ‘listen to Him’ He is saying obey Him
- g. Matthew 17:1–5 (ESV); ¹ And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”
- h. The two people who were with Jesus are significant
 - i. Moses was the great lawgiver – the one whom God used to deliver Israel from bondage
 - ii. He was a type of Christ – “I will raise up for them a prophet like you”
 - iii. Elijah was the one coming to prepare the way

- iv. Malachi 4:4–5 (ESV); ⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
- v. All Israel (and all nations, really) are waiting for a prophet like Moses and a prophet like Elijah
- vi. Here, both of them appear and are speaking of Jesus’ departure (exodus) – which could really only mean his death, burial, and resurrection which is our salvation
- vii. What a significant thing to witness – Elijah and Moses disappear and only Jesus remains
- viii. “Moses the great lawgiver, and Elijah the great prophet, were there summoned from the dead to resign their commissions and to lay their homage at his feet. Then the apostles **KNEW** that Christ was not merely some great Elijah or other notable, and they were certain beyond all doubt that he was the One greater than all others, superior even to Moses and Elijah.” ¹

i. Listen to Him!

III. Jesus

- a. Hebrews 10:5–9 (ESV); ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’ ” ⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second.
- b. It is important to note that the Law of Moses was built around sacrifices
 - i. God required them – the burnt offering, the peace offering, the sin offering, the trespass offering, the day of atonement, the two birds offering, the grain offering, and the drink offering
 - ii. But even then obedience was better than sacrifice since God was looking to the only sacrifice that could forgive sin, Jesus’
 - iii. God emphasizes this in Christ’s actions
 - iv. Philippians 2:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Matthew 17:3". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/matthew-17.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

- c. Jesus' obedience demands our obedience – 'Listen to Him'
- d. Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV); ²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."
- e. These two men had something in common – they both heard Jesus' words, but only one man did them
- f. Obedience equals a wise person – disobedience equals a foolish person
- g. We are asked to "have this mind among yourselves"
 - i. A mindset of humility
 - ii. A mindset of obedience
 - iii. An obedient faith in Jesus equals eternal life with Him
 - iv. Romans 1:4–5 (ESV); ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,
 - v. Romans 16:26 (ESV); but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—
- h. Obedience is better than sacrifice!

IV. Listen to Him

- a. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV); ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- b. 2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV); ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- c. We have the very words of Jesus written down for us
- d. Listen to Him!