



Leading Starts with Listening

Genesis 12:1-4 (NIV)

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Genesis 22:1-5 (NIV)

Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.” ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV)

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Learning to Listen to the Voice of God:

1. Great listeners realize confession brings clarity!

Isaiah 59:1-2 (HCSB)

Indeed, the Lord’s hand is not too short to save, and His ear is not too deaf to hear. ² But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide His face from you so that He does not listen.

2. Great listeners turn down the volume in their lives.

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

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.

- Great listeners learn to tune in early and late.

3. Great listeners learn to look for a verse, not just listen for a voice.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

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.

- Many times, the reason why we don’t hear God speak is because He already has.
- God speaks through the Word, promptings of the Holy Spirit, Godly friends, difficult circumstances.

1 Samuel 3:3 (HCSB)

Before the lamp of God had gone out, Samuel was lying down in the tabernacle of the Lord, where the ark of God was located.

4. Great listeners learn to put their “yes” on the table.

- If we aren’t willing to obey, I am not sure God is obligated to speak.