

O C T O B E R 3 1 2 0 2 0



“Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” John 8:47 (English Standard Version)

Thought for today...

In England 1898, artist Francis Barraud painted his brother's dog Nipper, listening to the horn of an early phonograph. He entitled the painting 'His Master's Voice'.

As followers of Christ, our ears need to be keenly attuned to hearing our Master's voice, so that we are ready to act as instructed. We must first be able to recognise our Master's voice from any other. Jesus said: **'My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.'** John 10:27 (New King James Version)

'Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' John 10:5 (NKJV)



Nipper is standing very close to the phonograph - all the better to hear 'His Master's Voice'.

How can we know that it's His voice we are hearing, and not our own, or maybe someone else's?

The young boy Samuel had a similar dilemma, but we read that at the time of hearing God's voice, Samuel did not have a personal relationship with Him.

Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
1 Samuel 3:4-8 (ESV).

Key to recognising our Master's voice is revelation contained within His Word. If we 'hear' a voice telling us to take revenge on someone who has wronged us (because after all, **we** are the injured party), a search of the scriptures will lead us to conclude that the voice isn't our Master's. Romans 12:19 tells us: **Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”** (ESV).



When we read and study God's Word, we can learn about the nature of His character, which will in turn assist us with recognising our Master's voice. God says “**Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life...**” Isaiah 55:3 (NLT). Like Nipper,

let's get closer so that we can hear our Master's voice, as He speaks words of life.