

## **Sermon Notes | LISTEN | 03/01/2026 | The Well Community Church – Indian Service**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Welcome to The Well Community Church and thank you so much for being here in the presence of God and with your fellow brothers and sisters. We have already completed two months of this year, and now we have entered the third month. Do you remember the early sermons where I told you that we were running out of time? It truly looks like we are living in the end times, and we must be ready. That is why we started the Soldier series. We have been learning what kind of qualities a true soldier of Christ should have. We began with the fear of God, then faith, fellowship, follow, discipline, submit, and be strong. Today, we are going to learn about listening.

LISTEN — A Soldier Who Knows His Commander's Voice

### **I. THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD (John 10)**

Turn with me to John chapter 10. He said, My sheep hear My voice. John 10 is not just a comforting passage; it is a defining passage. Jesus begins by describing Himself as the Shepherd and His people as sheep. In the early verses He explains that the sheepfold has a door, and the true shepherd enters by the door while thieves and robbers climb another way. The sheep recognize the shepherd because they are familiar with his voice. In biblical times, shepherds did not drive sheep from behind like cattle. They walked ahead of them, and the sheep followed because they knew the voice. This means relationship precedes direction. The sheep are not responding to force; they are responding to familiarity. When Jesus says in verse 27, My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, He is revealing a spiritual reality. Hearing is not merely physical sound; it is recognition that comes from intimacy. The Greek word for hear carries the meaning of understanding and responding. It is possible to listen without hearing. Many in the crowd heard Jesus speak, but they did not belong to Him, so they could not recognize Him. In verses 25–26 Jesus says, You do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. Belonging determines hearing. If we belong to Him, we will recognize when He speaks through His Word, through conviction, through the Holy Spirit. Then He adds a promise: I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. Security is connected to hearing and following. The sheep that follow the Shepherd are protected in His hand. Notice that Jesus does not describe sheep that argue with the shepherd, adjust the shepherd's instructions, or delay the shepherd's commands. The sheep hear and follow. That is the mark of a true disciple. In the last days,

the danger is not that God stops speaking; the danger is that people stop recognizing His voice because they have grown adapted to other voices. A soldier in battle cannot afford confusion. He must know exactly who is giving orders. If he follows the wrong command, destruction follows. Now with that understanding, let us go to 1 Samuel 15 and examine a king who heard clearly but did not follow fully.

## **II. SAUL — THE DANGER OF SELECTIVE LISTENING (1 Samuel 15)**

In 1 Samuel 15:1 Samuel says to Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people... now therefore heed the voice of the words of the Lord. Notice that phrase: heed the voice. From the beginning the issue is listening. In verse 2 the Lord reminds Saul that Amalek opposed Israel when they came out of Egypt. This was not random judgment; it delayed justice. Then in verse 3 the command is explicit: Now go and attack Amalek, and destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. The instruction is detailed and comprehensive. God leaves no room for interpretation. In verse 4–5 Saul gathers the people and prepares for battle. In verse 7–8 Saul defeats the Amalekites, but the text reveals the turning point: He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive. That single word alive exposes the beginning of disobedience. Verse 9 explains further: But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. Here we see selective obedience. They destroyed what was despised and worthless but preserved what seemed valuable. This reveals something about the human heart. We obey God when obedience does not cost us something we value. Saul adjusted the command to preserve what appealed to him. In verse 10–11 the word of the Lord comes to Samuel: I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments. Turning back from following is connected to not performing the command. Listening is proven by doing. Samuel is grieved and cries out all night. In verse 12 Saul builds a monument for himself. After partial obedience, instead of repentance, he seeks recognition. Pride replaces sensitivity. In verse 13 Saul says to Samuel, Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord. In verse 14 Samuel asks, what then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears? Disobedience always leaves evidence. In verse 19 Samuel asks the piercing question: Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? In verse 22–23 Samuel declares, To obey is better than sacrifice... For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and

idolatry. Because Saul rejected the word of the Lord, the Lord rejected him from being king. The tragedy of Saul is not that he failed in battle but that he failed in listening.

### **III. DAVID — THE POWER OF RESPONSIVE LISTENING (2 Samuel 12 & Psalm 51)**

Now contrast this with David. David also sinned, but when Nathan confronted him in 2 Samuel 12:7 and said, You are the man, David did not argue. In 2 Samuel 12:13 David said, I have sinned against the Lord. That is immediate response. That is a listening heart. Saul argued and blamed. David confessed and humbled himself. Psalm 51 reveals David's heart after hearing God's correction. In Psalm 51:16–17 David says, For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise. Saul tried to replace obedience with sacrifice. David understood that God wanted surrender of the heart. Saul preserved animals. David surrendered himself. Saul feared losing honor before people. David feared losing the presence of God. Saul said, I have obeyed. David said, I have sinned. Both were anointed. Both heard God through a prophet. One defended himself and lost the kingdom. The other humbled himself and secured the covenant. The difference was listening.

### **IV. THE DANGER OF NOT LISTENING IN THE LAST DAYS**

As we live in these end days, the warning is urgent. Hebrews says, Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts. Hardness develops through repeated resistance. The first time you ignore conviction, it troubles you deeply. The next time it is easier. Eventually you can sit unmoved. That is spiritual danger. Deception increases when discernment decreases. Discernment decreases when listening decreases. The protection promised in John 10 is for sheep who hear and follow. Not for sheep who wander independently. Not for sheep who negotiate commands. A soldier who disregards instructions during training will panic in combat.

### **V. LISTENING DETERMINES DESTINY**

Saul and David stand before us as living lessons. Listening determines legacy. In John 10 Jesus assures that no one can snatch His sheep from His hand. But that assurance belongs

to those who recognize and follow His voice. In these serious times, the question is not whether God is speaking. The question is whether we are truly listening. A true soldier of Christ does not adjust the Commander's orders; he obeys them. Today, if you hear His voice, respond with surrender. Because destiny is shaped not by what God says, but by how we answer when He speaks.

May the LORD bless you, Amen.

