

# Diving Deeper into Discipleship

November 14, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

*Recovering the Rest of Sabbath: Listening Loss*

## Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Are you a good listener? Do you actively, intentionally and attentively listen to other people in order to better understand them and deepen your relationship with them?
- What does the balance in your life look like between doing things for God and listening for God?
- Do you have a mentor who can teach you about how to grow in your listening for God? If not, ask God to direct you to someone who can help.
- Begin planning today for some stilled silence this week. When can you fit in three minutes each day? How can you make space for some reverential listening during your next Sabbath rest?

## Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Psalm 19:1-14** | Which two different ways of speaking does God utilize, according to this passage? Of the two, which are you more naturally drawn to? Why?
- **Ezekiel 3:10-11** | Is it challenging for you to receive words from God and then feel empowered to share with others? Why or why not?
- **John 10:1-10** | According to this passage, why is it important to learn to listen well for the voice of Jesus? What are the benefits of doing so?

## Weekly Spiritual Practice

**Liturgies of Sabbath** | “God’s Questions” (from *The Rest of God* by Mark Buchanan, pg. 189-192)

- Prayer, before it’s talking, ought to be listening. Before it’s petition, it should be audition. Before it calls for eloquence, it requires attention. God speaks. We listen. Prayer’s best posture is ears cupped, head tilted toward that Voice. And what does the Voice speak? More often than not, a question. God’s curiosity is His most underexplored attribute. He’s downright inquisitive, brimful with questions—some childlike blunt, asked in seeming naïveté, others lawyerlike shrewd, asked with stealthy cunning. But, God asks, early and often. Indeed, after the sustained monologue of Creation, the first three things we hear from God are questions: “Where are you?” “Who told you that you were naked?” “Did you eat from the tree?” Even though God lacks no knowledge, He asks. His inquisitiveness is a measure of His intimate nature. He desires relationship. He wants to talk with us, not just at us.
- For this Sabbath liturgy, find any one of the questions God or Jesus asks in Scripture. There are many. Choose one. Ponder it until you hear God asking you the question personally. And then ponder it until you can give an answer.