



January 12 & 13 // Tim Quick

_____ over _____
Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 5:39-40; Psalm 19:7-; Psalm 25:5

Jesus _____ . Sheep _____
John 10:27; John 16:13

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. In your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What did you hear Jesus saying to you through this weekend's message?

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. “ (John 10:27) Your love for the Lord is expressed in how you listen to the Lord (Jn 14:6). There is a direct connection between our ears and our hearts. Worship is more than Jesus listening to what we have to say about him, it’s also our listening to what Jesus has to say...Hearing Jesus, the Word of God, in the word, is ground-level discipleship. How can we follow Jesus if we don’t hear from Jesus? Every time we crack open the Bible, we are sitting down to hear Jesus. Like sheep with the Good Shepherd, we are listening to his direction...There is no more refreshing voice in the universe than Jesus’s. Why not go to him? There’s a lot of voices in this world, but only one that commands our soul, our life, our all. We listen to Jesus, the beloved Son, because we love Jesus—and because he loves us. He has nothing bad to say to us.

—J. A. Medder

MY PERSPECTIVE: Describe your current Bible reading practice: when, where, how often, what, etc.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read John 10:27 & 16:13. Pastor Tim talked about the difference between reading our Bible “relationally” vs. “informationally.” Would you describe your own time in the Word as relational or informational? Do you regularly sense Christ’s Spirit’s presence with you during that time?

Knowing about God doesn’t automatically equate to knowing God personally. A person can be oblivious to their true spiritual condition if their approach to Scripture is academic rather than relational.

Read the following verses: Jeremiah 9:23-24; Psalm 25:5-15 & John 5:39-40. In what ways do these verses connect the Word and God’s relational involvement with us?



We want to heed James' exhortation and realize its promise: "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" But we can seek that nearness in ways that don't produce it. One common mistake is thinking that nearness to God can be achieved through knowledge accumulation. Now, of course, to intimately know God, we must know crucial things about God. Jesus said, "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). But never in the history of the Christian church has so much theological knowledge been available to so many people. The American church enjoys perhaps the greatest amount of abundance. But America is not abounding in saints who walk with God in a profoundly intimate way. Why? Because knowledge is not synonymous with trust. That's why Jesus said to leaders who possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life...yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." (John 39-40). Biblical knowledge is far better than gold when it fuels our trust in God, because it fuels our intimacy with God (Ps. 19:10). But when biblical knowledge replaces our trust in God, it only fuels our pride (1 Cor. 8:1)...God wants intimacy with you. Christ has done all the hard work in the cross to make it possible. His invitation to you to enjoy intimacy with him is the providences in your life that are testing your faith more than anything else. What you must trust God most for right now is where he means for you to draw closer to him. Intimacy with God often occurs in the places where we must trust him most.—John Bloom

MY RESPONSE:

Read Psalm 73:23-28. Is there a way you've come to know/experience Jesus more intimately through time spent with Him in His Word this year? If so, describe and thank Him for this blessing.

Describe one way you'd like to see growth in your time listening to Jesus in His Word this year. Share this with your Life Group.

