



Jonah 4

“⁵ Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city. ⁶ So the LORD God appointed **a plant** and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant. ⁷ But God appointed **a worm** when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. ⁸ When the sun came up God appointed **a scorching east wind**, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, “Death is better to me than life.””

How does God communicate with Jonah and us?

- “The Lord spoke”
(?)
vs.1:1, 3:1; 4:9
- “The Lord appointed or commanded”
(nature)
vs.1:17, 2:10; 4:6-8.

Why does God communicate with Jonah?

- It is not to condemn or judge him.
- It is not only to speak through him.
- It is not just to get him to obey.
- **It is to edify him**

Edify - ΟΙΚΟΔΟΜΕ οικοδομη (house building)
Whose house is God building?



**My
image**



**His image
in & through
me**

What does God communicate to Jonah and us?

- He desires to work through us.
- He wants us to know that He cares for us and others.
- He wants us to share His heart.
- **He wants to include us in His Kingdom through His Son.**

1 Corinthians 2

“¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no man. ¹⁶ For *who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?* But we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12

“¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Identifying God's voice



Style	Content	Fruit
How God speaks	What we hear	What is the final result
Be more tolerant	Be more discerning	Be more patient

Identifying God's voice

1. **A relationship with God** through faith in Christ gives us a gift for spiritual hearing.

- ✓ Welcome **the Holy Spirit** as the eardrum of the soul.
- ✓ Read **the Scripture** as the general (station - station) voice of God.
- ✓ Listen to **the Body of Christ** as the hearing aid for the individual.
- ✓ Respect the **diversity** of the Body as an essential part of discernment.

2. **Sharing God's heart** is our guide to recognizing God's voice.

- ✓ Recognize that **God's big agenda** is going to be counterculture to ours.
- ✓ Look for **the emphasis in Scripture** as an auditorium for God's voice.
- ✓ Listen for **the confirmation of the Spirit** through prayer and worship.
- ✓ Look at the **key symbols** of the Christian faith as guides (Cross, bread, cup).
- ✓ Take **your baptism** seriously.

3. **A willingness to obey** puts us in a listening posture.

- ✓ We often hear **while following** what we already know to be the way of God.
- ✓ Respect the priority of **a holy inner life** and not just an active life of outer service.
- ✓ Observe the **life of Christ and the Apostles** as models of God's heart.