

# SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Exodus: Set Free to Live Free  
TITLE: A Theology of Listening

**SCRIPTURE: Exodus 6:1-30**

DATE: October 9, 2016  
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We are in a series on the Book of Exodus from the Old Testament. Why study this book? Exodus is the Old Testament story of the salvation of God's people that points forward to the great salvation that comes to us by faith in Jesus. Exodus helps us better understand what it means for God to *set us free* from our broken, messy lives so we can *live free* in loving, personal relationship with God.

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The idea of listening is deeply embedded in the worldview of the Bible and it would be wise of us to consider the different dynamics of listening as we see it in the Bible. Doing so should make us more faithful Christians, as we seek to listen, pay attention, and love God with all that we are.

## **How should we think about the biblical idea of listening?**

*The Exodus story shows us that we should listen because God listens.* This means God is not indifferent to us and he longs to hear us cry out to him.

Like Moses, it's hard to think well about listening when people around you aren't listening to God.

## **Notes about the genealogy in Exodus 6:**

1. Every genealogy in the Bible helps to show the faithfulness of God.
2. A genealogy connects the past to the present.
3. This specific genealogy is to remind the readers that Moses and Aaron come from priestly family, and their priestly duties included being listeners between God and man.

## **Two things that are a hindrance to listening:**

1. **Pain.** Our pain makes it hard for us to listen and hard for us to hear the truth.
2. **Pride.** When you've made up your mind about something and preference becomes pride, you plug your ears from hearing what you need to hear.

## **Two things that are a help to listening:**

1. **People.** One of the main ways God speaks *to* people is *through* people.
2. **Promises.** God's promises in verses 6-8 went beyond the promises about Pharaoh's heart.

Our thinking about listening has to be built on the fact that God is a listening and promising God. Promises should help listening.

This is one of Israel's greatest needs in the Exodus story—to remember God's promises and listen accordingly. And just as Israel needed it, we need to be a listening people too.

Our great comfort should be found in God, and the way we know anyone is listening is when they respond. God responded to Israel's cries by setting them free from their bondage, and God's supreme response is his son, Jesus. **Jesus is the glorious proof that our God hears us, and because of the freedom we find in him, we can now reflect our God by being listening his people—humble, willing, and obedient.**

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#### **For Discussion:**

1. Who is someone in your life that you consider to be a good listener, and why? What are some ways that you can become a better listener?
2. What has hindered your listening in the past? Are these hindrances keeping you from listening to truth right now?
3. How do you think you can better listen to God? Is there anything in your life right now that you feel God asking you to do, but you haven't been listening?