

**1. The . . . . . makes a lot of noise. 2:1-3**

The world is . . . . . you.

The heart of this people has grown dull, and their ears sluggish, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and under-stand with their heart, and turn back, and I would heal them. Isaiah 6:10, Matthew 13:15, Acts 28:27.

He has shown all of you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

**2. . . . . make a lot of noise. 2:4-5**

Nazareth to Bethlehem

Keys to good listening: Good listening is . . . . . (James 1:19)  
 . . . . . (Phil.2:4) . . . . . (Prov.20:5). . . . .  
 (Prov.18:13)

**3. God speaks in . . . . . 2:6-7**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these, the last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. Hebrews 1:1-2

Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy and My burden is light. Matthew 11:29-30

"Go out; stand on the mountain; for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a still small voice... that spoke to him. 1 Kings 19:11-13

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**My prayer priorities for this week, 17 December 2017**

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**This week's song selection**

O come all ye faithful / Open the eyes of my heart / Everything that has breath / I can hear Your voice / Refiner's fire / Hide me now / Speak O Lord / Spirit Song.

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**For private reflection or group study**

1. What is the loudest, the softest, and the sweetest sounds you have ever heard?
2. Read Isaiah 6:8-10, or Matthew 13:13-15, or Acts 28:25:27. What do you deduce from the fact that these same words are used by the Old Testament prophet, Jesus, and the New Testament apostle? What do these words tell you about a) problems, and b) solutions?
3. Why is good listening an exercise in: 1) Patience (James 1:19); 2) Generosity (Philippians 2:4); 3) Interaction (Proverbs 20:5); and 4) Preparation (Proverbs 18:13)?
4. God was not in the wind, earthquake or fire. He spoke with a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13). Why do you think God never speaks louder than a whisper?
5. How do you most often really hear God's voice?