

“Do you hear what I hear?”

By Roberto Bruno

The other day I heard a news story on a research group who wanted to study how distracted people were when they were walking and talking on their cell phones. The research group went to a college campus and hired a clown in full costume and makeup to ride a unicycle and perform in the campus square. The study was to see if the cell phone talkers noticed the clown. The results of the study were disturbing but not surprising. Not one of the cell phone users who were observed noticed the clown.

This makes me wonder as Christians whose voices are we giving our attention to? Is it our emotions, relationships, or our busyness that we listen to or is it the voice of God?

Jesus said in John 10:4, *“When he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice”*. In all the static of the world do we know the voice of God? I truly believe the Lord constantly wants to communicate with us, through a song, a sermon, the Bible, nature, and in prayer. If we are tuned to other things we will not hear His voice even though He is speaking. Distraction is one of Satan’s tools to lead us away. If we really know Jesus’ voice we will not allow ourselves to follow a stranger’s voice. *“Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”* John 10:5. The other many voices that vie for our attention may be legitimate and necessary, but let’s not allow the enemy to use our busy lives to drift away from Jesus’ sheepfold. *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly”*. John 10:10.

I realize we live in a time of high anxiety and multitasking but if we *“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”* God will provide all the life necessities that we need to live. This week let’s try to quiet down all the other voices in our lives and specifically tune in to the Lord to hear what instructions He has for us.

