

"Take Heed How Ye Hear"

Luke 8:18

1

The Captivity

- The Lord sent prophet after prophet to warn them of impending doom.
 - The prophets wrote their messages as proof that God did warn them.
 - Would not listen. Isaiah 9:8ff; 2 Kings 17:13ff
- *"Prepare to meet thy God."* cf. Amos 4:6-13
- Assyria to be the instrument of God's wrath upon Israel. Isaiah 10:5ff
- Judah to be destroyed by Babylon. Jeremiah 25:8-11; Jeremiah 27:8ff; cf. Jeremiah 39:6-8

2

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- a. Concerning John the Baptist - **Matthew 11:15**
- b. The parable of the sower - **Matthew 13:9**
- c. The explanation of the parable of the tares - **Matthew 13:43**
- d. To the churches of Asia – **Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22**

What is being said is very important.
- cf. **Mark 4:23-25**

3

Three Types Of Listeners

- The "Dull Of Hearing" Hebrews 5:11f; cf. **Matthew 13:13-15**
- This prevents them from:
 - Understanding God's truth.
 - Turning from sin to God.
 - And being healed (saved) by God!

Who would want to be this type of listener?

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Three Types Of Listeners

- Those With "Itching Ears."
2 Timothy 4:2-4; Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:10ff; Isaiah 30:10
- This turns from the truth:
 - Causes people to err. **Jeremiah 23:27, 32**

Who would want to be this type of listener?

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Three Types Of Listeners

- Those Who Hear With "An Honest And Good Heart" **Luke 8:15**
- **Acts 17:11** Bereans
"Received the word with readiness."
"Examined the Scriptures daily."
Bereans had – open minds "fair minded" NKJV
 - open Bibles
 - open schedules

Would you want to be this type of listener?

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The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Being Blessed ...
 - There are wonderful things to learn. **Matthew 13:16-17**
 - Some did not have the opportunity to learn. **1 Peter 1:10ff; Ephesians 1:3; 3:5ff**

We miss out on these blessings if we do not carefully listen!

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The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Saving Faith ...
 - Saved by grace through in Christ – **Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2; cf. Romans 1:16-17**
 - Faith comes through hearing. - **cf. Romans 10:14,17; cf. John 20:30-31**

Does your “listening” hinder the development of your faith?

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The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Bearing Fruit ...
 - Honest and good heart brings forth fruit. **Luke 8:15**
 - Bearing fruit comes from “*understanding*” the grace of God! **cf. Colossians 1:6**

Only by listening well can we “*understand*” God’s grace, and be thus motivated to bear fruit to his glory!

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The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Preventing Apostasy ...
 - Danger of drifting, by neglect - **Hebrews 2:1-3**

– Poor listening is often the first step to apostasy!

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The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Avoiding Rejection And Condemnation ...
- If we do not listen as we should ...
 - We reject Christ. **Matthew 10:14-15; 40; Luke 10:16**
 - We are judging ourselves unworthy of eternal life - **cf. Acts 13:44-49; cf. Matthew 12:41-42**
 - Judged by God’s word. **John 12:48**

–The rejection and condemnation will come from God!

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Steps To Better Listening

- Stop talking ... **cf. James 1:19; cf. Nehemiah 8:3-5ff; Acts 20:7f**

Does not the proclamation of God’s Word deserve attention?

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Steps To Better Listening

- Listen From First To Last ...
cf. Nehemiah 8:3-5ff; Acts 20:7f
 - Remove distractions.

Listeners must listen to ALL the parts to truly understand.

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Steps To Better Listening

- Read Along In Your Bible ...
1 Timothy 4:13

We encourage our children to do this, adults should set the example.

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Steps To Better Listening

- Listen With Faith ... **cf. Hebrews 4:1-2**
 - i.e. Listen with the willingness to believe what is shown to be true. **cf. John 12:37-42**
(Note: "could not believe")
 - Listen without prejudice.
 - Peter. Galatians 2:11-13; cf. Acts 15

If we don't listen "with faith," we will fall short of our heavenly rest!

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Steps To Better Listening

- Listen With A Mind To Act ... Personal application (cf. Matthew 26:22)
 - Are we like the people in Ezekiel's day?
- **cf. Ezek. 33:30-32**
 - **Hearing must be accompanied by doing to be of any profit – James 1:22-25**

As important as good listening may be, the blessedness comes only if we are doers as well as hearers!

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