

Take Heed How Ye Hear

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Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

Deuteronomy 32:45-47 And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel: And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Prov. 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Heb. 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let *them* slip.

Zech. 7:11-13 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. Therefore it is come to pass, *that* as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts:

2 Kin. 17:13-16 Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, *and by* all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments *and* my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that *were* round about them, *concerning* whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, *even* two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

Jer. 6:16-17 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. ¹⁷Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

Jer. 7:23-26 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels *and* in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending *them*: Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

Jer. 13:10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

- I. It is God who is speaking to you.
 - A. The preaching of the Word of God is God's chosen method for revealing himself to people.
 - B. God uses human instruments – prophets, preachers.
 - 1. The false do not negate the true – although they do much damage to the office and therefore lessen its credibility in the minds of people.
 - 2. Nevertheless, it is an office appointed by God, and therefore God can speak to your heart in spite of the man who is delivering the message.
 - C. You will decide whether the messenger is really sent from God or not.
 - 1. If he is then you are in deep trouble if you do not listen to the message God has sent to you through him.
 - D. You should listen for God to speak to YOU no matter what you think of the messenger.
 - 1. You should not turn your focus to a man but keep it on God and listening for his voice.
 - E. God always has something important to say to you.
 - 1. God does not ramble and trifle with words – He is not an incessant talker.
 - 2. When He does speak He has something infinitely important to communicate to you.
 - F. It is especially important to hear what God says when the church is gathered together at meeting time.
 - 1. What if the president were to announce a meeting at a certain city at a certain hour and the place was all prepared and provision made for thousands of people to show up and no one showed up to listen to him?
 - 2. Or what if the crowd did gather there, but as he talked no one would listen but were busy talking with each other and thinking about everything under the sun?
 - 3. How humiliating would that be for any great man? What must God feel like when the people who claim to be his come to his house and he has prepared a man and a message and they treat it as a light and vain thing and do not listen with attention?
 - G. What if you saw the truth that God is speaking to YOU?
 - 1. If you knew that God was going to speak to someone in the crowd, but no one knew who it was, everyone's attention would be riveted on what was being said.
 - a) When they are giving away door prizes they do not have much trouble holding the people's attention.
- II. How do you hear?
 - A. You must hear with deep and fixed attention to what is being said to you.
 - B. You must hear with deep reverence and awe.

1. Noting is more offensive to God than indifference, levity of mind and spirit, or contempt when He is speaking.
 2. Just as offensive as it is to a father when one of his children treat him that way.
 3. You must listen with a sincere desire to hear and understand.
 - a) You apply yourself to understand other things you hear and read that are of little or no importance.
 - b) How offensive to God to not give him far less attention than you do to a novel or a TV show.
 - c) If you have any education or knowledge how could you have obtained it if you had studied and listened to that instruction the way you listen to God's instruction?
- C. You must listen with an honest heart and be willing to see yourself in the worst light for what you really are before God.
- D. You must listen with a determination to obey whatever God reveals to you to do.
 1. To listen and understand while having your heart set steadfastly to disregard it is tempting God.
- E. You must hear with confidence in God – believing what He says.
 1. Again, you must realize who it is that is speaking to you.
 2. It is God – not a man.
- III. For the years you have lived, where are you in your understanding of the Word of God?
- A. If you had listened all your life, where would you be now?
 - B. How much have you lost by sitting and not listening?
 - C. How long are you going to continue to treat this matter of listening to the Word of God with lightness?