

## THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO THE LORD

Text: Matthew 11:11-15

INTRO: During His earthly ministry Jesus often concluded His lessons by saying, "He who hears to hear, let him hear." In this way He also concluded each of the letters He dictated to the 7 church of Asia Minor in the book of Revelation.

### I. THE NEW TESTAMENT RECOGNIZES AT LEAST THREE KINDS OF HEARERS.

#### A. Those who are "dull of hearing."

Heb 5:10-11, [Jesus was] called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

1. When a person is in this condition, it is difficult to explain things to them.
2. But the problem is not with the teacher nor the lesson. The would-be listener is "dull of hearing." It is really a problem of the heart.

Matt 13:14-15, And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear & shall not understand, &

seeing you will see & not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.

B. Those with "itching ears." These are very desirous of listening—but only if the teacher is saying what they want to hear.

2 Tim 4:2-5, Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering & teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Isa 30:9-10, That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.

C. Those who hear with a noble & good heart.

Luke 8:15, But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble & good heart, keep it & bear fruit with patience.

II. THUS IT IS IMPORTANT HOW WE HEAR.  
Luke 8:18, Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

III. IT ALSO MATTERS GREATLY WHAT WE HEAR.

Mark 4:21-25, And He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lamp-stand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

IV. MOST OF ALL, IT IS CRUCIAL WHOM WE HEAR.

Matt 17:1-5, Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, & John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, & His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses & Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here 3 tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; & suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Heb 1:1-3, God, who at various times & in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

V. JESUS CHRIST SPEAKS TO US TODAY  
THRU THE WRITINGS OF THE NEW  
TESTAMENT APOSTLES & PROPHETS.

Matt 10:40-41, He who receives you receives Me, & he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a

righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

John 13:20, Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

1 Cor 14:37, If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

2 Cor 5:20-21, Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as tho God were pleading thru us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

CONCLUSION: We have ears. Let us use them to listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ that we might embrace the grace of God and enjoy the benefits for which Christ die.

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