



Don't Be Hard of Hearing!

Lesson 1

"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."

~Jesus, Luke 8:18

"He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching said to them:

'Listen!...Whoever has ears to hear had better listen!'"

~Jesus, Mark 4:2-3, 8-9 [NET]

Most people tend to be "hard of listening" rather than "hard of hearing." Listening is hard!
But you know what is even harder than hearing? _____ what you have heard!

Why a Series on How to Listen to Sermons?

- 1. Cultural Reasons:** We live in technological age with radically _____ attention spans and stunted learning styles.
- 2. Practical Reasons:** Few of us have ever been _____ how to be a good listener even though much of life is dependent on listening rather than just hearing.
- 3. Spiritual Reasons:** We are all born spiritually _____—hard of hearing and hard of heeding.
 1. The only kind of hearing the Bible says will be blessed is the kind that results in _____.
James 1:21-25
 - Listening to God speak through His written or spoken Word is spiritual _____. (1:21)
 - Thinking that hearing a sermon is the same as applying a sermon is spiritual _____. (1:22-25)
 2. The only kind of hearing Jesus says will be blessed is the kind that only God can _____.
Mark 4:1-25; Matthew 13:13-23
 - Be careful how you hear: Listening to God's Word is more than just hearing; it is a spiritual skill that is a gift from God given only to a _____. *Matthew 13:11-16; Mark 4:3, 9-12*

In Matthew is it s spiritual skill that is given by God's sovereign grace to the repentant of heart. (13:11-16)
In Mark is it s spiritual skill that requires faith in, fellowship with, and following of the Lord Jesus Christ. (4:3, 9-12)
 - Don't be hard of heeding: Listening to God's Word is more than hearing; it is a spiritual skill that results in _____.
_____. *Mark 4:13-20, 23-25*

*"As for that in the good soil, they are those who, **hearing** the word, **hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.**" Luke 8:15 ESV*

4. **Biblical Reasons:** One the main biblical words for hearing actually means _____.

- The word in Greek is ὑπακούω (hupakouw) and a similar word in Hebrew is שָׁמַע (shemah).
- The word basically means to hear or listen but the meaning in most contexts is to willingly place oneself under what another says!

Therefore, it is used in such passages such as:

- 1) Israel hearing and obeying the one true God as He speaks through Moses. *Deuteronomy 6:4*
 - 2) Children hearing and obeying parents in the Lord. *Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20*
 - 3) Servants hearing and obeying masters in the Lord. *Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22*
 - 4) Wives hearing and obeying husbands in the Lord. *1 Peter 3:6*
 - 5) Demons hearing and obeying Jesus. *Mark 1:27*
 - 6) Creation hearing and obeying Jesus. *Mark 4:41; Matthew 8:27; Luke 8:25*
 - 7) Believers hearing and obeying the faith, the doctrine that saves, and the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 6:7; Romans 6:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Romans 10:16*
 - 8) Believers hearing and obeying the Bible when it is preached and read. *Philippians 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 3:14*
 - 9) Believers hearing and obeying God whenever He speaks to their hearts. *Hebrews 11:8*
- I like to refer to ὑπακούω (hupakouw) as the “_____.” *Acts 12:13*

“Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door.” Acts 12:13 NIV

The Rhoda Response: Quick to _____ and quick to _____ from the _____!

It is the biblical response...

Every parent wants from their children!

Every married person wants from their spouse!

Every boss wants from their employees!

Our heavenly Father, Loving Bridegroom, and Sovereign Master wants from His children, His bride, and His servants!

Our Lord wants from every disciple who listens to His word being preached!

Why a Series on How to Listen to Sermons?

So we will listen to God speak through sermons with a heart ready to hear and a will ready to obey!

Let's Learn How to ὑπακούω!

Learn to listen to God speak through sermons with a heart ready to hear and a will ready to obey!

May our hearing result in doing, so we won't be hard of heeding!

Which Reason(s) Most Resonates with You or Is Most Relevant to Your Own Struggle to Listen to God Speak through Sermons?

- ☐ **The CULTURAL Reasons** My attention span has been shortened and my learning style stunted by the barrage of technologically-driven distractions. I have let watching TV or surfing the net replace hearing the Word preached as my highest priority.
- ☐ **The PRACTICAL Reasons** I am not a very good listener in other areas of my life and would greatly benefit from learning how to be a better listener to God and others.
- ☐ **The SPIRITUAL Reasons** I realize that I often deceive myself into thinking that merely showing up to listen is blessed by God. I realize that I am hard of heeding and need to be more careful about how I hear.
- ☐ **The BIBLICAL Reasons** I do not have a “Rhoda Response” when it comes to listening to sermons. I need to learn how to listen with a heart ready to hear and a will ready to obey.