



Listen Like Your Life Depends On It! Part 2

Lesson 12

How would you listen...

if you knew your very life depended on what the other person was saying?

How would you listen...

if you knew this would be the last message you ever heard before you died?

The Conclusion to the Greatest Sermon in the Bible ~ Matthew 7:21-29

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

THEREFORE whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." ~Jesus

Two Observations from the Conclusion of Greatest Sermon in the Bible:

- 1) **Why** we listen is clear: We listen in order to **obey**.
- 2) **How** we listen is vital: Listening is a matter of **eternal life and death**.

#7 A Vital Spiritual Skill: Listen _____ Depends On It... It Does!

Listening is a matter of life and death!

A Repeated Warning in the Bible: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion!"

- The Old Testament Warning: *Psalms 95*
- The New Testament Warning: *Hebrews 3:7-4:13; 2:1-4*

Listen Like Your Life Depends on It...

1. Listen **URGENTLY**. "Today, if you hear His voice..."

- Today is **every (and any) day** we hear the preaching of God's Word and the leading of God's Spirit.
- Today is never too late until it is **too late**. *Hebrews 12:15-17; 9:27-28*
- What should we do? **Repent, trust, and obey** again and again

2. Listen **HUMBLY**. "Today, if you hear His voice; do not harden...as in the rebellion."

- Do not harden means we **respond** versus not responding or refusing. *2 Timothy 3:16*

"Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way." ~The Message

- 1) **KNOW**: New belief system – *What did I learn today that I need to remember and meditate on?*
- 2) **BE**: New change of heart – *Where do I fall short in what I am hearing today?*
- 3) **DO**: New direction in life – *What corrections need to be made today?*
- 4) **LIVE**: New pattern of living – *What is one thing I can begin doing today to make this a consistent part of my life?*

- What should we do? Ask God to **open** our hearts and help us **apply** what we hear. *Luke 24:45; Acts 16:14; James 1:5; 3:13-18*

"You must give an account for every sermon you hear...The judge to whom we must give an account is God...how should we observe every word preached, remembering the account! Let all this make us shake off distraction and drowsiness in hearing, and have our ears chained to the word." ~Thomas Watson

"Remember that all these days and sermons must be reviewed, and you must answer for all that you have heard, whether you heard it with love, or with unwillingness and weariness, with diligent attention or with carelessness; and the word which you hear shall judge you at the last day. Hear therefore as those that are going to judgment to give an account of their hearing and obeying." ~Richard Baxter

3. Listen _____. "Today, if you hear His voice; do not harden your heart..." Deuteronomy 30:6; Mark 4:13-20, 24-25

- Three kinds of soil/hearts have a wrong response to the Word and all three are unfruitful.

The Wayside Soil = _____ hearts that refuse to respond.

The Stony Soil = _____ hearts that respond superficially.

The Thorny Soil = _____ hearts that respond but eventually are distracted by divided loyalties.

The Wrong Response to the Preaching of God's Word Is _____ and, therefore, Unfruitful.

- 1) I will not follow Jesus, because I am _____ to Him and His Kingdom message (but don't know it).
- 2) I will follow Jesus as long as it goes _____ way and meets _____ felt needs.
- 3) I will follow Jesus as long as I don't have to _____ anything I want or desire.

- One kind of soil/heart has the right response to the Word and bears fruit to three different degrees. (vv. 8, 20)

The Good Soil = _____ hearts that respond with understanding, obedience, and perseverance to the point of fruitfulness.

Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15

"Abhor an idle heart in listening....For that word cannot be practiced, which is not understood, nor at all remembered, nor has procured resolutions and affections. It is the due work upon the heart that must prevail for the reformation of the life." ~Richard Baxter

The Right Response to the Preaching of God's Word Is _____ and, therefore, Fruitful.

I will follow Jesus, because He is my King no matter **how hard** it will be for me or **how much** it will cost me or **how long** it will take me.

4. Listen _____. "Today, if you hear His voice; do not harden your heart...So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

"Remember that this God is instructing you, and warning you, and treating with you, about no less than the saving of your souls. Come therefore to hear as for your salvation. Can that heart be dull that well considers, that it is heaven and hell that is the matter that God is treating with him about?" ~Richard Baxter

Spiritual Skill #7 Listen Like Your Life Depends on It...IT DOES!

Listening really is a matter of life and death!

- One **truth** I have learned (and never want to forget) from this series is...
- One **area** where I have been really convicted about falling short through this series is...
- One **step** I have been taking to make corrections in light of this series is....
- One **habit** I am going to establish in my life—by God's grace in Christ Jesus through His Spirit—as a result of this series is...