

NEED TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE - Sept. 27, 2020

Today, we want to speak on the subject of the need to hear Gods voice. We need a greater sensitivity in our hearts, to hear what He is saying. Even the 12 apostles at times had trouble hearing what Christ was saying. When our hearts are hardened, we cannot perceive what God is telling us.

Our spiritual ears often have a blockage, ... and so many things get past us. In Hebrews 5:11, Paul said to certain believers, you are dull of hearing. One man said, Lord will you speak a little louder, I can hardly hear you. And God replied, I'm already shouting. He had a hearing problem.

Let's try to get to the bottom of this inability to hear.

The greatest problem is the human heart.

We need a fertile heart to receive God's Word, and to produce much fruit. Perhaps the most important parable of Jesus, is the sower and the seed. This parable deals with six different kinds of human hearts.

The parable of the sower, is found in three of the four Gospels. It is found in Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:1-20; and Luke 8:4-15.

Jesus spoke in parables to hide truth from those who do not love truth. In Matthew 13:13-15, he explains this: [parts]

“Therefore I speak to them in parables: because they seeing, see not; and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand...For this people's heart is waxed [thick, dull], and their ears are dull [sluggish] of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart... ” Matthew 13:13-15

The real problem is a heart that does not deeply love the truth. God wants to do a much greater work in all of our hearts.

Six different kinds of hearts

In the parable of the sower, Jesus categorizes six different kinds of hearts. We are putting all three gospels together here, Matthew Mark and Luke.

1. The seed - is the word of God.
2. The ground - represents the heart that the seed falls upon.
3. The sower - is the preacher, or the one speaking the word of God. So, When the word of God is preached, what kind of heart is receiving it?

So let's look at heart # one.

Heart # 1 - this seed falls along the wayside, - this is a hardened pathway. This ground, where people walk, is so hard, the seed just lays there. The seed is not received at all. It does not germinate or sprout. And the birds of the air come and steal it away. Speaks of evil spirits. Many hearts are like this. They're so hard, does not receive the word at all. And Satan's spirits come and steals the seed, the word that was preached.

I have witnessed to many people in my lifetime.

Some listen and respond, some do not, and some hate the word of God.

Recently I was talking to a man at the coffee shop.

We're having a good time, talking about various things.

And I mentioned the Lord, and being ready for eternity.

The man was very angry, he told me to be quiet. And walked away in anger.

The seed fell upon very hard and packed down soil. Totally unreceptive.

Some people soften later in life, but many hearts are like this.

Heart # 2 - the seed (the word of God) fell upon shallow, stony soil.

This heart did receive the word of God, and it sprouted. Born again.

But the Word was received in very shallow ground with stones.

This speaks of a heart that has very shallow commitment to the Lord.

As soon as the sun beat on this little sprout, it died. It bore no fruit.

When friends or family disagreed, or persecution came, it dies quickly.

People who say yes to Jesus, but no real commitment. Turn back.

Heart # 3 - This ground, filled with thorns, receives the word. Born again. This is someone who receives the word of God, and is Born again. But after a time, the thorns choke the word of God, and he dies. Thorns speak of the works of the flesh, the cares (distractions) of life. The deceitfulness of riches, and it chokes the word of God. No fruit. So, the first three hearts, have no fruit. And do not go to heaven

The next three hearts

Now the Lord speaks of seed that fell upon good soil. Matthew 13:23 These are good / honest hearts who hear and understand the word of God. Even among the good / honest hearts, some are more fruitful than others. Some bring forth 30-fold, some 60-fold, and some 100 fold. But it all depends upon what kind of heart we have. We want an honest and fertile heart. And to bear much good fruit.

Our understanding of Gods word depends upon the condition of our heart. If we love the truth, we will understand the truth. If we love the truth, we will have wisdom, discernment, and fruitfulness. If we love the truth, we will hear God's voice much more clearly. If we love the truth, we will not be deceived in these last days. Deception will be a great problem in our times. We must love the truth. Remember, Jesus is the truth. Jesus is the word of God. Love the Word. Lord, give us a pure, receptive and fertile heart!

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying

He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. This expression is found seven times, in chapter 2 - 3 of Revelation. Our heart condition determines how well we are hearing from the Spirit. Having eyes, but not seeing, ears but not hearing. Spiritual dullness. We want to hear with our inner heart. A deep love and commitment.

A key for growth

**Our ability to hear and to see things clearly, is a gift from God. Prov. 20:12
“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made both of them.”**

**One of the seven spirits of the Lord, is the spirit of understanding.
Understanding is an anointing. Understanding is insight, comprehension
It is to know what is the source of matters, what is the real meaning of life.
There are many viewpoints of life, but how does God see things?
Understanding is Gods gift to those who fear him, and love him. Isa.11:2,3**

**“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and
understanding ... And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of
the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove
after the hearing of his ears:” Isaiah 11:2, 3,
Understanding - sees things as God sees them.**

If we obey the truth, God will give us more

**“And he said to them, Take heed [how you] hear: ... unto you that hear shall
more be given. For he that has, to him shall (more) be given: and he that
has not, from him shall be taken even that which he has.” Mark 4:24, 25**

**This is both a promise and a warning. If we are listening and obeying what
God is saying to us, he will give us more. But if we are not obeying what
God is saying, we will lose even what we know.**

God often speaks in quiet ways

**Even Elijah needed to listen to a still small voice.
He looked for the spectacular, but God wanted to teach him something.
Let's read 1 Kings 19:10-12: parts**

He is told - Go and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." 1 Kings 19:10-12, KJV.

Often God is speaking to us in a quiet voice.

We must not always look for something loud and spectacular.

Let's learn from the message that God gave to Elijah.

An uncircumcised ear

Jeremiah 6:10 is a warning to God's people. There was judgment coming.

"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it." Jeremiah 6:10

They never allowed the Lord to circumcise their hearts.

This is the reason they could not hear what God was saying.

Great deception in the church

Much of the church today is given a very shallow message.

In fact, many churches are given a false message, false grace.

"God loves you, no matter how you live. Just believe in Jesus."

Hearts that love a lie, are drawn to these kinds of messages.

But people who love the truth, and study Scripture, do not listen to this.

Much of the church today allows immorality, worldliness, sensual music.

Revival is coming to give everyone an opportunity to be fully committed.

Even the very elect could be deceived

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24, KJV

This verse literally means, it is possible for the elect to be deceived.

What does the word elect mean? It means to be chosen.

God has elected or chosen us to have eternal life.

We are chosen, elected, but we must be faithful to the end to be saved.

He that endures to the end shall be saved. Matthew 24:13.

Let's think about election in the natural.

When we elect a president, they are “president elect”.

They've been chosen, elected, but they're still not in office yet.

It is not until the day of inauguration that they are truly president.

It is the same when the believer is called “the elect”.

They have been elected or chosen to have eternal life. But must be faithful.

We could be elected or chosen, but not inaugurated into eternal life.

He that endures to the end shall be saved.

God uses impostors to test his people

God still has Satan around for an important purpose - to test his people.

God allows false prophets and false teachers, to test his people.

Even at the end of the millennium, Satan is loosed, to test the nations.

Let's turn to Deuteronomy 13:1-3:

“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God is proving you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 13:1-3, KJV.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul talks about the coming antichrist. Why does God allow an imposter to come just before He comes? The Imposter will draw all those who are not real, out of the church. After in world-wide revival and harvest, the harvest needs to be sorted out. God uses this man to test the hearts of his people. And separate the wheat from the tares in the harvest. The antichrist will take out a certain segment of the church. He will draw all who love not the truth, but pleasure in unrighteousness.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Paul makes it very clear that Christ will not come Until first the man of sin be revealed, the son of destruction.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

This man, the antiChrist, Will do unbelievable miracles. Many will be deceived, they're more interested in something spectacular, Than in loving the truth.

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,” 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

In closing today, we want to have a heart that loves the truth. Many people believe a lie, because they do not love truth, but a lie. Whose voice are we listening to? God's or the world's?

You see, the issue is our heart. We need wisdom and discernment. There're many voices today.

A heart truly dedicated to God, will discern the right voice.

Let's pray! Lord create in me a pure heart. Make me wise and discerning. And listen to those who are Godly. Amen.

