Blog 28b: The Parable and the Kingdom of God

To Hear:

Mark 4:3 “Listen! (*same Greek word as Hear*) Behold, a sower went out to sow.

Mark 4:9 And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Mark 4:12 so that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and *their* sins should have forgiven them.”

Mark 4:15 And these are those by the wayside, where the Word is sown. And when they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the Word that was sown in their hearts.

Mark 4:16 And these are those likewise being sown on stony places; who, when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with gladness.

Mark 4:18 And these are those being sown among thorns; such as hear the Word,

Mark 4:20 And these are those sown on good ground, who hear the Word and welcome *it*, and bear fruit, one thirty, one sixty, and one a hundredfold.”

Again,

The word “Hear” is stated 8 times in these verses.

When Jesus uses a word 8 times in a teaching, we should pay close attention. He is not only talking about the Kingdom of God, but also challenging the people to be hearers and listeners to God.

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John Hartshorn: “The New Testament seems to make even more clear that “**understanding**” is a gift of God, and like love, manifested through obedience.”

GMJ paraphrase: “We must obey the command/writing to ‘hear’ it.” We gain understanding of God’s Word and His thinking if we obey.

In Luke 24:45: “And He opened their mind to **understand** the Scriptures.”

What does it mean to open their mind? Is ***your*** mind open?

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Here is an edited excerpt from Mathew Henry on the Luke verse:

“Here he took the veil from off the heart, *by opening the mind.* Observe here, that Jesus Christ by his Spirit operates on the minds of men, on the minds of all that are his.

We should pray to be a Lydia of Acts 16:14.

What are the components of hearing God?

1. We need a good receiving device.

**1b**. And a good filter:

Spiritually speaking, what is your “receiving device”?

* Spiritually it is the Holy Spirit, your knowledge of the Word and understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

You need a filter to hear things and discern their value. There is a lot of heresy out there.

Romans 12:1-2

The community can/will lead you astray, e.g., it is popular today to say, “say we need not to fear God”. They say “that fear is only applied to the God of the Old Testament. The New Testament God is love only”. But both Paul and Jesus, et al. disagree. The community’s oft quoted verse to prove their point is,

* 1John 4:17: “In this is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, that as He is, so also, we are in this world.”
* 1John 4:18: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He who fears has not been perfected in love.”

But review

* John 14:21: “He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”

Scripturally, the love of Jesus is verified by your obedience. Obedience is the perfect love of Jesus and gives you boldness in the day of judgment.

\*\*The fear of God helps motivate you to stay the course and obey God.

Note: If you continue in disobedience to God, you should be concerned about your thinking that you are saved.

Three other common heresies in our market today are

1. When I don’t like a command, I classify it as a cultural command, therefore the command is not in force. i.e. women teachers, women headcover.
2. They will say, i.e. the Corporate Church is the “storehouse of God” and it should get the first part of your tithe.
3. We add to the commandments to manage our society. i.e. drinking, dress codes, etc.

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More components of hearing

1. You will need a good teacher for the Holy Spirit/The Word.
2. You will also need Accountability: i.e., discipler or team, considering your life, a group you are linked to that will speak into your life.

The question is how do I get ears to hear? \*\*By becoming a person of the Word, who is holy dedicated to Jesus.

Mark 4:9: “And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Application:

If I went to a symphony with a musical student, I would guess they would appreciate the music better than me. Education and training always tunes and enhances your hearing.

1. A major number of professed Christians I know are not trained or prepared to be a growing Christian. Take stock where you are and develop a plan to be better tuned for God’s teaching.
2. Be sure and have around you a group of people who are interested in your spiritual well-being and holding you accountable.
3. The one who says he believes Jesus and His teaching and doesn’t become a person of the Word is suspect of being a liar.
4. I will improve my hearing of God and will do the following to hear him correctly and better.

PS: If you are depending on growing in Christ by going to church or mass and hearing a sermon, and/or watching after the kids at the service, you are making a mistake.

PS:

From the last Blog

PS: Some ways God communicates with us:

1. His Word – Romans 10:17: “Then faith *is* of hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
2. His Word – Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to *the* dividing apart of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
3. Creation – Psalm 19:1: *“*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the expanse proclaims His handiwork.”

Psalm 19:2: “Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

1. The Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8: “But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to *the* end of the earth.” In your day to day living, study, and family life, practice the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.
2. Trials – Hebrews 12:11: “Now chastening for the present does not seem to be joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who are exercised by it.” (Don’t forget Job.)
3. Fellowship – Hebrews 10:23: “Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering (for He is faithful who promised),

Hebrews 10:24: and let us consider one another to provoke to love and to good works,

Hebrews 10:25: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

1. Revelations, miracles, dreams, and teachers – These can lead to an application of God’s thinking.