

MEDITATION ON HEARING

My meditation this morning comes from the mouth of the Lord Jesus. After he spoke the parable of the sower, He patiently explained the meaning to His disciples and went on to say:

Luke 8:16

No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth *it* under a bed; but setteth *it* on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

In other words, the disciples who now had the light were to disseminate it, as candles shine forth in the darkness. Then, he uttered this curious phrase:

Luke 8:18

Take heed therefore how ye hear:

We are all familiar with the textbook diagrams that explain the anatomy of the ear. We remember words like eardrum, hammer, anvil, stirrup and cochlea. The hearing mechanism was designed by our Creator and functions independently of our will. Obviously some aspect other than the processing of sound waves is being considered here. If we have control over how we hear, this deserves our attention because we are told to “take heed.”

Sometimes we hear **superficially**. We may appear to be listening but our attention is elsewhere. We are getting the surface message but not the full meaning and our intent is to move on to more important matters. When we hear the voice of the Lord, through the reading of His Word, in this hurried manner, the important nuances of each and every word are lost. We must study (2Tim 2:15) and “take heed” not to hear **superficially**.

Many times we hear **selectively**. We tend to close ourselves to words that make us uncomfortable and hasten to change the subject. Praise is welcomed and reproof is rationalized away. The voice of the Lord speaks many precious words of promise but there are also words of condemnation and warning. When we are to be judged by every word (Jn 12:48), we must “take heed” not to hear **selectively**.

Some of us hear **speculatively**. We tend to over-analyze. Our focus is on reading between the lines and what is hidden becomes more important than the words themselves. When we hear the voice of the Lord, we must guard against this private interpretation (2 Pet 1:20) and “take heed” not to hear **speculatively**.

And finally, there is danger in hearing **skeptically**. It is imperative that we remember that Satan sowed the first seed of doubt in the Garden of Eden when he asked, “*Yea, hath God said?*” In our present temporal condition, living in a world ruled by the evil one, we must be discerning and use our wisdom to protect ourselves. But there is no place for skepticism when we hear the voice of the Lord. His words are pure (Ps 12:6), preserved (Mt 24:35), trustworthy (Mt 4:4), and plain (2 Pet 1:20). They are not hidden (Isa 45:19) and not far away (Deut 30:14). They are truth (Jn 17:17) and light (Ps 119:105) and life (Jn 6:63).

“HE THAT HATH EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR.”