

ARE YOU LISTENING?

JAMES 1:22-25

Intro. We can hear without listening. Husbands or wives can hear the other talking, but do not listen to what they say. Same for fellow-Christians.

1. We need to listen to one another.

- a. Perhaps someone hurting. Talk is necessary. Listening is crucial at this point.
- b. Maybe one sees a problem arising in family. He/She needs an ear.
- c. Perhaps destructive habits developing. Needs encouragement to overcome.

2. Do we listen to God?

- a. God talks to us through reading Bible, preaching, Bible classes.
- b. People can become blind and deaf. Isaiah 43:8 *"Bring forth the blind that have eyes, and deaf that have ears."*
- c. God says "Do this" or "Do not do that". Are we listening?
- d. Jesus saw this. Matthew 13:15 *"This people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see...and hear... and understand... and I should heal them."*

3. Sometimes we are blinded and deafened by our own sins.

- a. Sin is deceptive. Hebrews 3:13 *"Exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin".*
- b. We once lived in sin. Titus 3:3 *"We ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving lusts and pleasures..."*

4. We are bountifully blessed if we listen. Proverbs 8:34 *"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."*

Ecclesiastes 5:1 *"Keep thy foot when you go to the house of God, and be more ready to hear than give the sacrifice of fools."*

Luke 8:15 (Parable of sower) *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."*

James 1:19 *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath."*

5. Word can lull some to sleep. Ezekiel 33:32 *"And lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice,for they hear thy words and do them not."*

6. Are you listening? Have you heard the message of the Gospel?

Listen to the invitation of Christ! Matthew 11:28-30 *"Come unto me...; Revelation 22: 17 The Spirit and the bride say come..."*

Have you fallen away? Revelation 2:5 *"Remember therefore from whence you are fallen, and repent, and do the first works..."*