

Take Heed How You Hear!

by Wayne Goff

“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Luke 8:18

GIVEN MORE?

Consider carefully what Jesus is telling us! One must carefully develop the *taste* for spiritual things. It does not come naturally, but it does come to those whose good hearts are receptive. *“For whoever has, to him more will be given.”* God is eager to give *more* spiritual food to those who have drunk the milk of God’s Word (1 Peter 2:2). As their learning and understanding grow, their appetite for more knowledge and understanding increases. And God is more than willing to oblige! After all, He is the Giver of all good things (James 1:17).

Do you want **more** spiritual food? God knows the answer, and I hope each of you considers his own situation. It is advisable to drink as much spiritual milk as you can, so that you can grow spiritually and desire the more potent aspects of God’s Word, that which He calls *“meat”* or *“solid food”* (Heb. 5:12). The more you grow in God’s Word, the greater production you will have, and the more sure your eternal salvation, 2 Peter 1:3-11.

Back in Jesus’ day (Luke 8), when He spoke the parable of the Sower, not everyone cared to understand what it meant! But His disciples asked Him the meaning of the parable (v. 9). Now ask yourself the question: *“Would I have stayed around to hear the explanation of the parable?”* If not, then you would never have learned it.

Jesus’ reply should be seriously considered: *“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”* (v. 10). The Gospel is **offered** to all, but it is only seen, understood and accepted by those who diligently seek after it. The Gospel message requires diligent study. Those who diligently seek after God are rewarded (Heb. 11:6)! Those who do not seek after God and His Word go haplessly on their way, never realizing what they are missing.

Does God **hide** the Gospel from some then? **ABSOLUTELY!** *But it is hidden in plain sight!* It’s right there in the Bible you may have in your lap, or on the coffee table, and on the book shelf collecting dust! You must pick it up, read its contents, and make the proper application -- or else it will do you no good.

So Jesus **explained** the parable of the Sower to those who were interested. He did not offer the explanation to those who didn’t care.

GIVEN LESS?

“And whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Now that is the rest of the story. **If you don’t use it, then you lose it!** Bible knowledge and understanding is not a static thing. That is, it varies with use. The *more* you use God’s Word, the *more ability* to use it God gives you. The thing you may not understand today will be better understood tomorrow -- if you apply your heart to knowledge. But if you refuse to use it, then God takes it away.

Sadly, I have known those who have *“grown up in the church,”* as we say. As adults, they turned their backs on the Lord’s church, the Gospel, and anything spiritual. In a few short years, they hardly remember *anything* they ever learned! But such is the promise of God. He will not waste the Gospel’s power on the unappreciative.

So the final question is: *“Are you growing daily, or are you withering away?”* That is the only two choices you have when it comes to the proper use of God’s Word. You choose which way you go. **“Take heed how you hear!”**