

“Are You Listening?”

by Wayne Goff

Several gospel preachers I have known in the past were noted for asking the question during their lesson: “Are you listening?” It’s a valid question because too many brethren are actually *poor listeners*. I think **good listeners** are *motivated* listeners. Jesus noted the same thing while He was on the earth.

To His disciples He said, “*But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear*” (Matt. 13:16). Now that doesn’t mean the disciples understood everything Jesus said at the beginning. In fact, numerous times they asked questions of Jesus to understand things that you and I might consider fundamental today. But remember that Jesus was laying a brand new *spiritual* foundation.

Unfortunately many of Jesus’ listeners were **not** there to listen! Jesus repeatedly proclaimed: “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*” (Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 15; 13:43; Mk. 4:9, 23; 7:16; 8:18; etc.). Obviously some did not have the ear to hear.

Jesus explained in the Parable of the Sower that *only* those hearers who were like the “*good ground*” would have ears to hear (Lk. 8:8). So the **real culprit** when it comes to hearing, listening and understanding spiritual truths is one’s **desire**. If you do not desire to learn, then you will not put forth the effort to do so. **How sad that many come to church on Sunday to hear a sermon that they will never really hear!**

Excuses are made by those who do not have the heart to put forth the effort to study, to learn and to benefit. One would be much better off if he or she would put forth greater effort to learn.

Jesus became frustrated on at least one occasion with His own twelve disciples when He warned them of the “*leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod*” (Mk. 8:15) — and they thought He was complaining that there was no food! He exclaimed to them: “*Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?*” (Mk. 8:18).

SO — HOW GOOD OF A LISTENER ARE YOU?!

333801