

CTW: Revelation 3:14-22

Reading: Mark 4:21-25

AGD: One of the most common sayings of Jesus recorded in the Bible is "The one who has an ear, let him hear." It's in our text today but I wonder if anyone heard it.

Jesus says, "Pay attention to what you hear" but we need to get something out of the way first: Does God still speak to people today?

- Objections and Arguments: NT times were special, Bible, heresy
- The reality remains that you cannot have a relationship without communication.
- I made a list of ways people have heard from God: impressions, nudges, curiosities, phrases of others, songs, movies, dreams, visions, angels, circumstances, animals, Scripture (literally and out of context), art, experiences, auditory, "unspoken words," prophets, weather, open and closed doors, revelation, Bible Bingo, and even in sermons!
- Story "This hear is the only way I'm gonna hear from God."

Hearing is something your body does. Listening requires effort and "spiritual hearing" requires faith

- "Lord, is ok to move or should I stay?" OK Moving "We will get you where you need to be."
- "What can I do to keep him from leaving?" "I asked/pleaded and You said nothing."
- Being specific requires more faith and leads to more specific answers
- God knows how you hear and can overcome your communication errors
 - But not your heart to listen

This last week, how many times did you hear from God? How many interactions did you have?

- I'm not trying to shame you. I want to challenge you—this life is meant to be lived in interaction with God
- God doesn't just want you to report back in your prayers and show up Sunday for your orders (or worse a "meeting" with no purpose)
- Sometimes when I'm talking with others I strongly sense God speaking. People usually hear but often don't listen.

In our text Jesus says, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

- If you listen to what you hear then you will hear more and more
- If you discard it, pass by or let go of what you hear, even what you've been given will be lost
- This is literally a key to hearing more from God—act on what you hear.

I was texting with a friend about how much God has been talking with me this week about communication. (God seems to be saying and doing a lot recently.)

- Adele's song "Hello" "Hello from the other side"
 - I must have called a thousand times
 - To tell you I'm sorry for everything that I've done
 - But when I call you never seem to be home
 - Hello from the outside
 - At least I can say that I've tried"
- You know what my friend said? "I need to listen to that song and pay attention to the words."

- Did you see what he did there? Acted on faith.
- We just say, "Oh that's nice"
- You will not hear more from God if you dismiss, discard and disregard the "little" things God is already saying

Modem and Summit

- I stumbled on a solution
- Summit—email asking for an evaluation.
- My fear of making unwitting mistakes. Failing through ignorance and being punished anyway.
- God knows what you don't know

Lord willing I'll deal with communication "errors" more next week but today God is asking "Hello?"

- Anybody gonna answer that?

CLOSE

So what is Jesus saying, "Act on what I say and your ability to hear will grow."

- I'm sick of seeing 40 year old spiritual babies
- I'm disappointed with a Church that has lost her power and fire
- God is talking. God is speaking!

You can tell who has ears to hear because their feet are moving.