

A Prophet Like Me

Acts 7:17-44

The older I get I realize I'm having trouble hearing...

How good is your hearing when it comes to listening to Christ? This morning our text is going to show us the importance of listening to Jesus.

Background – quick reminder

We're in the middle of Stephen's sermon... It's a sermon that gets him killed. Why?

The Jewish leaders did not want to hear what he was saying. They were enemies to Christ and the message of the Gospel.

They had made gods out of their land, Moses, and his law, and the Temple and it's ceremonial customs.

Moses points us to Christ

Redeemer, Mediator, Law giver

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers; it is to him you shall listen;

Matthew 17:5 He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

These Jewish leaders stopped their ears – defiant

Acts 7:57-58 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.

But what about us? What kind of listeners are we?

How do we listen?

Selective hearing –

Hear the parts you want to hear

If the parents say the words ice cream.. but “clean your room”

Pretend to listen –

The husband watching the football game

God gave me 100 important things to think about, but a brain that can only handle about 5.

Sermon listening

Not really listening but... here's the only problem with that. I can only see your outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

Is there background noise?

Competing voices

Listen to what makes you happy

Voices in our own head

When we really listen to Christ, what are some of the things he says to us?

Are you tired?

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Jesus also says hard things

Matthew 16:24-26 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Hear him on the cross

Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

A man pleading with his father to forgive the people who were torturing and murdering him...

When the moment finally came - It is finished!

John 19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Hebrews 13:5-6 [B]e content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

I am going to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-3 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

To hear Christ...

To hear Christ, to really hear him is to really live. Hearing him, responding to him, obeying his voice is what gives meaning to life, it's the basis of our joy.

Your life is based on the word of Christ you are like a wise man whose house is built on a rock...

So what kind of listener are you?

If you're stopping your ears... stop resisting the love of Christ!

If you've been listening half-heartedly... I want you to consider that the other voices or other things competing for your attention are robbing you of wholeness and joy.

If background noise has made it hard to hear...

Psalms 19:10-11 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.