

Hearing and Discipling

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So, last week we talked about how we can not lose the faith.</p> <p>— We must remain connected to God and that in the suffering we endure we will be challenged to live in obedience or disobedience. We will have to choose.</p> <p>— — Jesus is the perfect king, the perfect Great High Priest, Perfect sacrifice, perfect shepherd, and the perfect source of eternal perfection for broken humanity.</p> <p>— — — We talked about patience in God; not to act without God.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>So, we will start a couple week study into Hebrews 5:11-14.</p> <p>— There are several points that our author will make that are very good opportunities for us to look within and do some spiritual checking.</p> <p>— — We will look at 8 different points of spiritual immaturity and spiritual maturity.</p> <p>— — — We will cover the first 2 points today which are hearing and discipling.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 5:11–14 (NASB95): 11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.</p> <p>12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.</p> <p>13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.</p> <p>14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.</p>	<p>The author stops his teaching on the high priesthood of Jesus that we have been looking at in the last part of chapter 4.</p> <p>—Why? It is not because it is hard to understand but because his readers have become “dull of hearing.”</p> <p>— —So, what does that mean?</p> <p>— — —Well, look through our passage this morning, being dull of hearing means: Not putting into practice the word of God.</p> <p>— — — —Or more, not being mature in spiritual faith; not living out what is supposed to be known.</p> <p>— — — — —How do we show we really understand something? By being able to do it. (Big Bang Theory where the car breaks down).</p>
	<p>So, the author’s tone drastically changes from what it was to rebuke.</p> <p>—William Hendriksen wrote, “The words of the author of Hebrews are sharp and pointed. Something has gone drastically wrong in the learning process.”</p> <p>— —The author explains that the things that were talked about earlier in the book of Hebrews were not difficult to understand or too perplexing to grasp; but the people have become lazy, immature, distracted, and selfish.</p> <p>— — —So, this morning, hopefully you will take a look at yourself as we deal with immaturity that Hebrews is pointing out.</p> <p>— — — —This is an opportunity for us to look at ourselves and see if we are being spiritually lazy, immature, distracted, or selfish.</p> <p>— — — — —The author of Hebrews is pointing out that some of his readers have, as Albert Mohler wrote, “They don’t have the mature ears, minds, or hearts for grasping the concept. Those who are trained in Scripture and are progressing in the faith are better equipped to understand Christ’s priesthood, but those who shut their ears to God’s Word regress in their faith and fumble in their comprehension.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, the immature don't understand because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— 1. They are dull of hearing.— — READ: James 1:19–20 (NASB95): 19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.— — — We are really good at talking a lot in the world we live in.— — — — No other time in the history of humanity can we get a hold of more information.— — — — — But no other time in the history of humanity is there more misinformation and lack of listening.— — — — — — We should be. quick to listen and we should process the information, think about it before we respond, and respond from a place of truth, not emotion or feelings.
	<p>What we see happening here is those being written to here in Hebrews have turned their ears off to the things that they don't want to hear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— They wanted to listen to certain things and not other things.— — There are so many people like this in our world today.— — — They want to take pieces of things that others say and believe and dull their ears to anything else.— — — — Christians you can not do this!!! We need the whole council of God, not parts of it and replacing parts we don't like.— — — — — We need to hear the words of God and do them.— — — — — — READ: John 8:47 (NASB95): 47 “He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

Scripture:	
	<p>Yet there are those who are Christians that attempt to avoid biblical knowledge thinking that they will not be held to it if they do not know it.</p> <p>— This is not so; Author W. Pink wrote, “Yet Scripture teaches us that our ignorance of God’s Word is a moral problem, not an intellectual one.”</p> <p>— — When we do not go to God’s word for whatever our excuse is, we are deliberately ignoring God’s word, we are deliberately ignoring God, and that is sin.</p> <p>— — — Don’t agree with me? Think about Jonah?</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Hosea 4:6 (NASB95):</u> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: John 12:48 (NASB95):</u> 48 “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.</p> <p>— — — — <u>READ: Romans 1:18–19 (NASB95):</u> 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.</p>
	<p>Mature Christians are those that listen.</p> <p>— They listen not only to God and His word but also to other people.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: John 10:27–28 (NASB95):</u> 27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Proverbs 12:15 (NASB95):</u> 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Proverbs 2:2 (NASB95):</u> 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding.</p> <p>— — — What are you listening to, because you are listening to something? Either you are listing to God or it is something else.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, the immature don't understand because:</p> <p>—2. They need to be taught again!</p> <p>— — There is nothing wrong with needing to be taught but when we have to be taught over and over again; are we really taking in what is being said?</p> <p>— — — Yes, we all need refreshers here and there but there were those who needed more than a refresher.</p> <p>— — — — Verse 12 tells us that they should “be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you.”</p> <p>— — — — — How many years are needed for someone to become a teacher? How mature is mature enough for someone to be able to teach other the, “elementary principles of the oracles (words) of God.”?</p>
	<p>Now some of you are looking for your escape clause right now, and are going to try and tell yourself that some people are gifted as teachers and that is who is being talked about here.</p> <p>—Nope. He is not speaking about professional teachers here but he is talking to every believer.</p> <p>— — He is talking to the every day believer who has heard the narrative, who have been taught doctrine, but have never put this knowledge in the leading others to the salvation of God.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Matthew 28:19–20 (NASB95):</u> 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”</p> <p>— — — — This is not a suggestion, it is a commandment, and it is not addressed to just pastors and teachers; no, this is for all believers.</p> <p>— — — — — Go!!! Make disciples!!!! Teaching them!!!!</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Mohler wrote this, “All Christians, however, are expected to be teachers in the sense that they should be prepared to train new believers in the fundamentals of the faith. The congregation should consist of willing and maturing disciples who are training up newer and less developed disciples.”</p> <p>— The problem is believers in our time have all kinds of excuses of why they should not share the gospel, why they should not teach, and why they still need to be taught.</p> <p>— — That last excuse is exactly what the author of Hebrews is talking about.</p> <p>— — — If you have ever said, “I don’t know enough to share or disciple someone....What if I say the wrong thing....you are proving the point of the author of Hebrews.</p> <p>— — — — Hendriksen wrote, ‘What a disappointment when a Christian who is given the opportunity to witness for Christ and teach the gospel declines because he feels inadequate!’</p> <p>— — — — — Pink wrote this, “Not only can they not understand spiritual concepts like Christ’s priesthood, but they have also forgotten the fundamental things of the faith!”</p> <p>— — — — — — One of the commandments that God has given us is to go! Share the gospel! Teach others about God and His glorious truths.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>If we are not practicing these things have we really grasped them?</p> <p>— So who is your disciple or are your disciples right now? Who are you training in righteousness?</p> <p>— — If your answer is no one.....Then do you understand the elementary principles of God’s word?</p> <p>— — — I know that is harsh but if you know the grace that God gives us, the love that He has for us, the salvation from eternal destruction, the abundant life in Christ, and more; and you are not sharing about Christ and trying to teach people, either you are selfish or you don’t understand those things well enough.</p> <p>— — — — Those written to here in Hebrews should have been teachers but they had need to be taught again because they are not practicing what they have been taught.</p> <p>— — — — — Again is an important word here. It means that these teaching have not been internalized.</p> <p>— — — — — — They have not applied to their lives what should already be in their hearts; what should be a part of them.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, the mature believer is a teacher of people about the glories of God.</p> <p>— They do not remain silent about the bountiful wonders of God.</p> <p>— — <u>READ: Acts 4:18–20 (NASB95):</u> 18 And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; 20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”</p> <p>— <u>READ: Acts 7:51–58 (NASB95):</u> 51 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 “Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; 53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it.” 54 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. 55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our take away? What is our practical application? How do we apply this to our lives?</p> <p>— Well, I think there is massive opportunity for us to really assess where we are with God.</p> <p>— — We are really good at saying a lot of stuff but how good are we at living it?</p> <p>— — — If we want to be spiritually mature we need to learn to listen.</p> <p>— — — — If we are spiritually mature we need to disciple, not stuck in a continual pattern of being taught, not applying the teaching, and having to be taught again.</p>
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