

“How’s Your Hearing?”

Luke 8:1-21

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I. Introduction

- A. On the Mayo Clinic website, an estimated one-third of people in the United States between the ages of 65 and 75, and close to one-half of those older than 75, have some degree of hearing loss
 - 1. Signs and symptoms of hearing loss may include:
 - a) Muffling of speech and other sounds
 - b) Frequently asking others to speak slowly, clearly, and loudly
 - c) Needing to turn up the volume on the television or radio
- B. In our text today, Jesus, using parables, teaches us some powerful lessons on the importance of how we hear the Word of God
 - 1. The word “hear” is used at least 7 times in our text
 - 2. It means more than simply listening to words
 - 3. Hearing means listening with spiritual understanding and receptivity
 - 4. “So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17)
 - 5. Jesus gives us three admonitions to hear the Word of God

II. Hear and Receive the Word (Luke 8:1-15)

- A. The seed (v. 11)
 - 1. “The seed is the Word of God”
 - 2. It’s wonderful because it’s living
 - 3. It’s powerful
 - 4. It’s fruitful
- B. The Sower
 - 1. “The Son of Man”
 - 2. (Matthew 13:37)
- C. The focus is not the seed or the Sower, it is the soil
 - 1. The four soils represent the hearts of people and how they hear the Word of God
 - 2. The first soil- the unresponsive heart (hard heart) (v. 12)
 - a) Satan’s work
 - b) (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - c) The problem is that the soil is hard
 - d) Hardships of life
 - e) The world
 - f) Pride

- g) Sin
 - h) Satan
 - i) All kinds of people
 - j) (Psalm 10:4)
3. The impulsive heart (v. 13)
 - a) Shallow heart
 - b) “They have heard the Word and immediately receive it with gladness”
(Mark 4:16)
 - c) The problem?
 - 1) It’s shallow, superficial, emotional
 - 2) No conviction of sin
 - 3) No repentance of sin
 - 4) The time of temptation, trial, or test
 - 5) They fall away
 4. The preoccupied heart (v. 14)
 - a) “Cares” or “worry weeds” of this world
 - b) Riches (Matthew 13)
 - c) Pleasures of this life (lust for other things)
 - 1) Last days
 - 2) Lovers of pleasure
 - 3) Not saved
 - 4) Illustration- Rich Young Ruler
 5. The responsive, fruitful heart (v. 15)
 - a) Contrast with other hearts (soft, deep, clean)
 - b) Why?
 - 1) Conviction, godly sorrow, repentance (true conversion)
 - c) Hear the Word
 - d) Keep it
 - e) Bring forth fruit
 - f) Truly saved

III. Hear and Share the Word (Luke 8:16-18)

IV. Hear and Obey the Word (Luke 8:19-21)

V. Conclusion

- A. Let’s sow the seed
- B. Don’t get discouraged
- C. How’s your hearing?
 1. Hard?
 2. Shallow?

3. Crowded?
4. Fruitful?