

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

August 3, 2014

You have ears. Are you listening - letting the Word bear fruit?

❖ Who is Jesus speaking to? Everyone!

- **Whoever has ears, let them hear.**
- Speaking to the whole crowd - teaching in Parables
 - For believers: vivid, memorable, obvious by faith
 - For unbelievers, those without teachable hearts - obscure, a judgment.

You have ears. Are you listening?

❖ 4 ways of “listening” to God’s Word.

- Tempting to think: first 3 = unbelievers, #4 = believers
- Note: Rocky and Weedy soil - faith created, then fall away.
 - This could happen to any of us here. **Whoever has ears, let them hear.**
- Realize: We believers no doubt “listen” all four ways. Warning!
 - Teachings we find hard. Truths we ignore. That’s the hard packed path.
 - Places where we’re satisfied with shallow understanding.
 - Little or no growth since Confirmation.
 - Confusing *childlike faith* with *knowing as a child, childish ways*
 - Your weed patches:
 - worry woods - you jump into the jungle: *I need to take charge.*
 - Trusting wealth’s false promises: *If only you have this much, then...*
 - Listen. Think. *Where do I resemble those remarks?*
 - Judging like Eve - letting others do the thinking like Adam did
 - Solution: Listen to God’s Word.
 - Listen to gain understanding: *to know and comprehend the nature and meaning of what God’s Word says.*
 - See facts - get how it applies - the new mindset of our heart/will
 - Listen to the Word = repentance’s restoration of your heart/soul

You have ears. Are you listening - letting the Word bear fruit?

❖ We’re not listening to a dead word, but the Word that bears fruit.

- Listen to God’s Word. The goal of his Word is to bear living fruit in you.
 - Life replacing death. Living alive vs. walking dead
 - Light replacing darkness. Sight replacing blindness.
 - Guilt replaced with godly gladness.
 - Fear replaced with freedom from fear.
 - Slavery and captivity replaced with serve to the Lord who liberates.
 - Hatred, jealousy, & contempt replaced with love & happiness of others
 - Knowing God as your dear Father vs. estranged for an unknown god
 - Liberated
 - from: *sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 - For: *the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*
- Listening to God’s Word is our heart’s desire and way of life.
 - I don’t have to go to church. I want to go to listen to the Word in Readings, Proclamation, Sacrament, hymn, liturgy, Word infused prayer
 - Daily Bible reading and devotion - my new life of listening
 - Listen in a way that we ruminate on these Words as we breathe.
 - Not chiefly morality - but gospel crafter new mind set
- Listening that doesn’t produce a religious life, but new life - in Christ.
 - Greets persecution/trial with hope and joy.
 - Greets opportunities to worry as an invitation to trust God and serve.
 - No longer wealth driven, but rich in the fruits of the Word

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