

THOUGHTS FOR SERMONS

"Need A Spiritual Hearing Aid?"

Mark 4:1-24

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Many people are hard of hearing and have to use hearing aids to help them hear better. Sadly, there are many who are spiritually hard of hearing also. How often did Jesus speak about "hearing or listening to what He had to say?" One cannot do what the Lord says if he/she does not hear what the Lord is saying. Just why do some people have trouble hearing Spiritual things?

1. In everyday life, sometimes one does not hear what is being said because he/she is absorbed in something else, like television, music, reading or just thinking about something.
 - How many times does God have to say something to US before we finally realize that He had been trying to get our attention?
 - Could there be a great need among Christians today for some sort of "spiritual hearing aid?"
2. Jesus spent most of His ministry attempting through love, signs, sermons and warnings to get the people to LISTEN but sadly only a few did.
 - Jesus spoke a parable about a man sowing seeds and the different kinds of soil the seed fell upon giving four different responses to the seed.
 - Jesus was making the point that when the Word of God is sown (spoken), there are various responses.
3. Actually hearing God's Word involves one's desire to listen to it and to turn away from all that would distract his/her attention such as:
 - Worldly cares, interests
 - The desire to have material things.
 - Allowing worries to preoccupy one's mind, thoughts.
4. Often Jesus told those around him to "listen carefully to what they hear..."
 - He said "LISTEN!" - "He who has ears to hear, let him hear..."
 - It is vital to learn to listen to what God has to say.
 - Humble prayer, a heart filled with gratitude and praise helps hear God's Word.
 - If YOU were to pray for healing of some sort and Jesus told you what to do for healing, without any questions asked, what do you think you would do?
 - Remember the leper Jesus healed? He did exactly opposite of what Jesus told him to do.
 - How often have WE received gifts, forgiveness, grace, etc., from the Lord and yet we did not do what He had commanded?
 - How often has the Lord answered your prayers but YOU attributed the answer to "luck, chance, medicine or some sort of unknown source?"
 - So, of the four kinds of soil Jesus talked about, which do you think you are?
 - Wayside, where God's Word is ignored because of other interests?
 - Stony, where God's Word is heard, but after a while forgotten?
 - Thorns, where God's Word was crowded out by other things?
 - Good, where God's Word is gladly received and obeyed and good works are produced for the Lord?

6. What kind of Spiritual hearing aids are available?

- Deliberate spending time reading, studying, memorizing God's Word.
- Spending time talking with God throughout the day.
- Asking for more of the Holy Spirit to be given to you.
- Regularly confessing your sins with all the sincerity and honesty you possibly can.
- Being genuinely ready to do whatsoever the Lord Jesus wants and tells you to do, without any question.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian has turned a deaf ear to the Lord at one time or other. One must learn how to stop doing that.
2. Upon learning what the Lord Jesus wants, commit yourself totally to doing whatever it is that He wants of you.
3. Always be ready to be of help to some other struggling person who is wrestling with trying to do what they have learned the Lord wants of them.
4. Always have an open ear, an open mind and an open heart to be ready to hear and do what the Lord Jesus commands.