

RESPONSIBILITY OF HEARING THE GOSPEL

Luke 8:16-18

Ezekiel 33:30-33

Introduction:

I. WHAT IT IS TO TAKE HEED.

- To be wakeful, attentive, to be very considerate - to seriously ponder the word of the Lord and consider attentively its meaning and its application to ourselves.

II. WHY SHOULD WE TAKE HEED?

1. Because it is God who speaks.

- Through whatever manner He chooses: printed, or spoken by man or angel.

2. God speaks to YOU - as if it were by name.

- How would you feel if it were known that God was going to speak to someone here this morning by name but no one knows who it will be?

3. You do not want to misunderstand anything the Lord says.

- To understand, one must pay attention!

4. God speaks on things eternally important to your soul.

- Life and death hangs on every word God utters. God does not waste words.

5. God is offering you eternal life.

- Should a person not give "heed" on such a subject?

6. Everything may depend upon your present hearing.

- This could be the last time you hear the word of God as death can come at anytime.
- God may withdraw His Spirit from you after today. Then - no hope.

III. HOW YOU SHOULD AND MUST HEAR IF YOU WOULD EVER BE SAVED

1. You must hear with very deep and fixed attention when the Word of God is spoken to you. You must give your mind up most deeply and thoroughly to understand and obey it.

2. You must hear with reverence and awe.

3. You must hear with a most sincere desire to understand what God says.

- Who here today has come with an intense desire to understand everything said to you?

4. You must hear with an open mind, and willing to know the worst of yourself and your heart really open to hear the whole truth.

- Most people are not. They already have their opinions about Godly things.

5. You must hear with fear and trembling lest you fail to understand.

- Israel hear God at the mountain and trembled and cried out in fear. How would you feel if God were to suddenly speak in this room today?

6. You should hear with an intense desire to learn what the will of God is that you may do it whatever it may be.

7. You should hear with your heart set on obedience immediately, completely.

8. You must also hear with repentance for past neglect.

9. You must hear with implicit confidence in God.

- Unless you really believe God, of what possible use can it be to you to listen?

a. Would you listen if God suddenly filled this room and spoke with His own voice?

b. Would you listen if God sent an angel to stand before you and speak?

c. Would you listen if Moses or Elijah or Paul or Peter should come to speak?

d. Would you listen if Billy Graham or some famous evangelist should come?

e. Here we have the living Word of God in our language, God's chosen method.

CONCLUSION:

1. Many seem to pay as little attention to the Word of God as if no such warning were found in the Bible to "take heed..."

2. Hearing the word of God is tasting eternal life or eternal death.

3. Many have become exceedingly hardened, having often heard often God's Word.

4. How silly it is for people to think they have done their "duty" by simply attending services but not "taking heed how they heard the word of God."

5. Every seven years of your life makes up one year of Sundays. How many years of Sundays have you lived? What do you know of God's Word?

6. It is shocking and astounding the manner in which people treat the Word of God.

7. No doubt there are some in this service who are not impressed and there are some who are skeptic about what they have heard.

8. Given the serious responsibility of giving heed to the word of God, how will you regard it when you come to your death bed and how will it be with you when you draw your last breath and then stand before the God whose Word you have not given heed to?

9. It is eternally important that you should make up your mind at once to hear God's Word as you know you should, regardless the source.

10. Christians, how do you hear the word of God?

11. Will everyone in this room continue to hear God's Word as you always have?