

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Take Heed How You Hear

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We are never standing still in our spiritual journey through life. Jesus reminds us of this when he warns us to pay attention to how we hear His word. *“Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he thinketh he hath” (Luke 8:18).*

Proper hearing opens for us the opportunity to know and learn more. Sadly, the spiritual nourishment before us will escape our grasp if we do not approach God’s word to hear properly. Jesus reminds us that our attitude towards God’s word when it is presented is essential to further spiritual progress. Do we hear with the attitude of respectfully carrying out the demands of God? Or, do we hear allowing the word to go in one ear and out the other with no affect upon our will?

Ezekiel paints the picture of “how” his people “heard” God’s message. They *“hear thy words; but do them not; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their gain” (Ezekiel 33:31).* The word

to them was merely *“a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument; for they hear thy words and do them not” (Ezekiel 33:32).* Those listening to God’s spokesman were not hearing to do God’s will. In their mind they showed love to God by considering it a lovely song, admiring the presentation. But they are loosing what they thought they had—respect for God’s word. Proper hearing and respect for God and His word is obedience to what is presented.

This past week we have had the opportunity daily to hear God’s word. How did you hear the lesson on Man’s feeling of insignificance? When the feeling arises, and it will when you look at your existence in the context of the vast universe, will you remind yourself that God knows the number of the hairs of your head? The feeling of insignificance should transcend into understanding man’s dignity. How did you hear that lesson? God wants us to see ourselves as being a little lower than the angels, not as many do, a little higher than the animals. Will you hear to live holy lives mirroring the divine nature of your Creator?

How did you hear the lesson on Man’s makeup as “male” and “female”? Do you honor the distinction by obeying the commands directed to husbands and wives? Do you enjoy a harmonious marriage? You can have one if you and your spouse will take heed how you hear?

After you heard the lessons emphasizing the inward or spiritual part of man, are you determined to feed the soul with God’s word and die to the fleshly desires of man? Hopefully you have not forgotten that your spirit is at war with Satan and the flesh. Hear with constant reflection.

When you heard the lesson on Jesus as the Son of man, did you see the perfect blending of Jesus’ humanity with His deity? Hearing and still believing Jesus was “just” a man indicates that you have not heard God’s word carefully enough.

Was the study of man’s eternal destiny just a “lovely song” regarding heaven and an unreal nightmare regarding Hell? Proper hearing will be to choose to serve the Lord so Heaven will be your destiny. How did you hear God’s word this week?