

# Take Heed How ye Hear

## All Scripture is KJV: Luke 8

### INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY?

What I want to speak about this morning is on the subject of how you hear.

I am sure that most if not all of us here this morning don't have any problems with being able to hear physically.

But I do think that there are some of us here this morning who have a hard time hearing that which is spiritual.

Then there are those that hear spiritually perfectly well, but cannot remember what they have heard soon after they have heard it.

- And what is the reason for this?
- Well the bible gives us several reasons for not being able to hear spiritually.

But it is extremely important to make sure how you hear, because it will impact you in your Christian walk.

- So important is this command that even the Lord stressed this point.

### Luke 8:18

**Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

1. Too many people are just so complacent and become so satisfied in just being able to come to a service and hear the Word of God being spoken, but soon afterwards forget what God has just been trying to tell them through the message of his word.
2. Instead of listening to the word and growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, they are just happy to hear the word but do nothing with it.
3. The bible records these type of people who think that it is enough to just listen what is being spoken and never do anything with the word.
4. Instead of growing in the grace and knowledge of God, they end up only growing in knowledge to edify themselves.

### James 1:23-25 King James Version (KJV)

**<sup>23</sup> For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,** he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

**<sup>24</sup> For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**

<sup>25</sup> **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

5. Any person can sit down and listen to a message, but the real listener is one who acts on that message.

James 1:23 tells us that it is like a man who is looking at himself in a mirror, and has been staring and admiring himself for a long period of time (beholding), checking out everything there is to see about himself. But then as soon as he puts the mirror down he completely forgets what he looked like.

But on the other hand, a person who looks into (like a mirror) the perfect law of liberty (God's Word) and continues in it and doing it, (**being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work**). That it is this man who is the man that God will bless indeed.

- So the way in which we hear Gods word should cause us to make a change in our lives, to serve him and do things for him, because of him.
  - When God works in our lives it is because we are working to do those things for him which he has commanded us to do.
  - On the other hand when all we do is listen, and do nothing, then how do we expect God to use that in our lives?
- A. If all a person ever does is sit and complain about their life, how is that going to please God, and how is God going to use your complaining to his edification?

This verse in Luke 8:18 carries with it an unseen response to God's word.

#### **Luke 8:18**

**Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

- B. The person who receives Gods word and does something with it, will be given more by God to carry out his mission.
  - C. But on the other hand, whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken EVEN that which he seemeth to have.
  - D. That's why so many people who in their early days of being a Christian will say that they use to be able to recite scripture, or that they used to know the bible better, but now find it difficult to read or even remember scriptures that they used to be able quote verbatim. Therefore God has taken it away from them, because they never did anything with it.
- If we read the story here in Luke 8:1-21 it tells us about the conditions of the sower and the seed.

It tells us how that when the seed fell on the various surfaces, those people heard the word of God in various ways. Some to edification and some vanished. This is a stark reminder of how you can hear the word of God.

But I want to tell you a story this morning about those who have heard in the past, but have done nothing with the Word of God.

Go to Luke 23. This is a story of Herod desiring to see the Lord because he had heard of so many good things being done by him. And so Herod is desirous to see the Lord and to talk with the Lord Jesus.

### Luke 23:8-12

**<sup>8</sup> And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.**

**<sup>9</sup> Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.**

<sup>10</sup> And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

<sup>11</sup> And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

**<sup>12</sup> And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.**

- ✚ So here is an incident in the bible given to us by God. This incident illustrates the lack of willingness to act on the information that was given to Herod by God, and the disastrous outcome that it generated in the long term of the scheme of things.
- ✚ At first glance you may not see the reason why Jesus did not answer Pilot. But here is the reason.

Remember Jesus said don't cast your pearls before swine. What did he mean by that?

### Matthew 7:6

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls **before swine**, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

- ✓ Well the answer to that is simply: don't waste your time and energy and words on someone that you know is not going to respond positively to God.

Why should you waste your time when time is so important to share the gospel with those that will want to "hear" and "do" something with what they hear.

- ✚ So to get the reason why Jesus kept silent before Pilot, was not because he had no words to say, but in spite of that. He had previously said what he had to say.

Let's look at Luke 9.

### Luke 9:1-9 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>1</sup> Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

<sup>2</sup> And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

<sup>3</sup> And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

<sup>4</sup> And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

<sup>5</sup> And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

<sup>6</sup> And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

<sup>7</sup> **Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him:** and he was perplexed (*baffled*), because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

<sup>8</sup> And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again.

<sup>9</sup> And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

1. You see the reason why Jesus kept silent was because Herod had previously heard the gospel and had done nothing with it.
2. He had known of who Jesus was and what was required for eternal life, because John the Baptist, who Herod had killed, had been the forerunner of Jesus, who preached repent for the kingdom of God was at hand.
3. So Jesus knew that Herod was not in need of the gospel message now.
4. No, Herod was looking forward to seeing a miracle performed. But instead he received the cold shoulder of the Lord Jesus.

It is here that we see Jesus on the very few occasions keep silent before someone who wanted to know something about him.

5. But the motive from Herod was not to get saved but rather to just have a good old chat about a person who he had heard that could do many miracles. Herod just saw this as a good opportunity to finally meet the person Jesus so that he could ask him questions about what he wanted. We don't know how many questions Herod asked or what he asked him about, but we do know that he asked him a lot of questions.

🚩 And what did Jesus do? He just kept silent.....

6. Because Jesus never answered him to those questions. Where Herod was first excited, Herod became extremely angry and abusive towards Jesus.
7. So he completely turns on Jesus and began to ridicule him and mock him.

Then he sent Jesus back to Pilot.

Also in Mark Chapter 6 we can read the full story and background to Herod's first encounter with Jesus. And from here we see exactly why Jesus did not waste his time speaking to someone who did not want to hear the truth.

### **Mark 6:1-30 King James Version (KJV)**

1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

4 But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

**12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.**

13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

**14 And king Herod heard of him;** (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

<sup>15</sup> Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

**<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.**

**<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.**

**<sup>18</sup> For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

**<sup>20</sup> For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.**

<sup>21</sup> And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee;

<sup>22</sup> And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.

<sup>23</sup> And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

<sup>24</sup> And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.

<sup>25</sup> And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.

<sup>26</sup> And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.

<sup>27</sup> And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

<sup>28</sup> And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.

<sup>29</sup> And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.

**<sup>30</sup> And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.**

1. Jesus knew that giving the gospel again would be a waste of his time.
2. Herod had known full well about the gospel message.

3. Herod had “heard” but he did not “take heed how he heard”.
4. For this reason Herod had fallen into the rejection of Jesus and everlasting life.

Jesus had sent John the Baptist into Herod’s life. So Herod had heard the Gospel, and he had heard what Gods plan was for eternal life, but instead Herod chose to silence the man of God, instead of just listening to the messenger of God, and hearing the words of life, and acting upon them in a positive way.

- ✚ So when Herod came seeking answerers from Jesus it was already too late for him.
- ✚ In the same way Gods sent preachers and pastors, and messengers your way and my way to hear the truth and to act upon it.
- ✓ So as we started out this message with Luke 8:18 God requires us to take heed how we hear.
- ✓ And if we don’t God is going to take away those privileges from us and give them to someone else who will hear.

### **Luke 8:18 King James Version (KJV)**

**18 Take heed therefore how ye hear:** for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, **from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

- ✓ It only takes a few Sundays out of church for you to begin to realize that God will take away that which you thought you had.
- ✓ You will forget scriptures and the commandments that you used to have.
- ✓ The opportunities that you had before will seem so far away eventually.

<sup>19</sup> Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. <sup>20</sup> And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.

**21 And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.**

- ✓ So according to Jesus, the way you take heed to hear the word, is to actually do it.
- ✓ You put action to the words that you hear.
- ✓ Jesus even referred to it as his mother and his brethren are those that hear his word and do it. (Don’t forget Jesus is God).
- ❖ It is the same as we read in James 1.

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**24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.**

<sup>25</sup> **But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**

- So take heed how you hear.
- That's not me saying that its Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....