

Scripture

Exodus 20:1-17 & Mark 4:1-25

Psalters

85:1-3 – 325:1-2 – 121:1=4 – 2:1-3 – 68:1-4

Intro: Why did John Calvin often preached on *rightly hearing the Word of God*?

A. Because to be under *preaching* is a solemn thing (Jer. 35:15; Prov 1:22-33)

B. Because despising the preached Word is great sin (1 Thess. 5:19-20)

HOW TO HEAR THE WORD PROFITABLY? (2)

I. Prepare yourself before hearing II. Be attentive while hearing

III. Apply yourself after hearing the Word

I/II. Review of preparing and attending to hearing

A. Do all to prevent to become a *way-side hearer*

1. Learn from the farmers preparing their soil

a. watch your daily intake

- 1 Cor. 15:33-34 *Be not deceived: evil communications (or company) corrupt good manners* (Compare Gal. 6:7-8; 1 Thess. 5:21-22)

b. guard your thoughts about the Sabbath day: Isa. 58:13-14

B. Be attentive ***how you hear***

1. Hearing the Word is a *spiritual exercise* not a *spectator event*

2. Take note that the Lord *makes you **responsible** for how/what you hear!*

III. Apply yourself after hearing the Word

A. Westminster L. Cat: *"It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they ... meditate, and confer (consult) of it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives"*

1. Take note of Jesus promise/warning in vs. 18b (Matt.13:11-17)

a. he who improves graces received, will have increase (Mat 25:29)

b. he who despises them, will lose them all (2 Cor. 6:1, John 12:35-36)

2. Take heed *therefore* how you hear for promise is sweet: vs. 8, 15

B. Practically: *how do I apply myself after hearing of Word!?*

1. Take heed not to be *move by impulsive and temporary excitement* (vs. 13)

a. Heed Jesus warning in Luke 14:25-33

- b. any conversion without roots of repentance and faith will wither
 - meditate on 2 Cor. 7:10-11; 2 Cor. 10:4-5
- 2. Take heed not to be a *'stunted growth' hearer!* (vs. 14)
 - a. Heed Jesus diagnosis why *multitudes* remain this way
- 3. Take heed to be *fruitful listener* (15)
 - a. hear with an ***honest and good heart*** (instead of Ezek. 33:31-32)
 - b. having heard the word, ***keep it***
 - c. and ***bring forth fruit with patience*** (Ruth 2:17 & Prov. 12:27)
 - d. be a ***doer of the Word*** (vs. 21; James 1:22-25)

Conclusion: What is the main 'doing' Jesus calls us to?

- A. His own ministry is answer: *Mark 1:15 (compare Acts 2:38; 3:19; 10:43; 13:26, 38-39; 20:21)*
 - 1. Are you satisfied with simply *being here – hearing Him?*
 - a. true religion is infinitely more *than knowing the truth of the Bible*
 - b. true religion is *a living relationship with the God of the Bible truths*
 - 2. Does God seek a *true relationship* with you? (John 3:17; Matt 22:1ff)
 - 3. What hinders the restoration of your relationship with your God?
 - a. meditate upon Acts 20:21

SOME THOUGHTS OR QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ...

- 1. Discuss with each other how you can best recall the messages upon coming home. Or what you can do to take along more from the message of God's Word?
- 2. Evaluate yourself by Augustine's quote, "If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe but yourself." Are there certain truths you tend to 'like more' than others?
- 3. Help your children read and meditate through Proverbs 1:20-2:9.