Having Ears to Hear

Matthew 13:3-23
• Matthew emphasizes this over & over:
  • In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (7:24-27)
  • In the Father’s Declaration to Peter, James, and John at Jesus’ Transfiguration (17:5)
  • To His Apostles (15:10; 28:20)
  • Now in the Parable of the Sower (13:3-23)

• We Need to Hear! – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear” – v. 9
• James 1:19 – “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath
HAVING EARS TO HEAR: What We Take From This

• **We Need to Hear & Then Do!**
• “bears fruit and produces” (vss. 8, 24)
• James 1:21-25 – Not a “forgetful hearer”

• **This Applies to Non-Christians**
• Verses 19, 20, 22, 23
• Rom. 10:17 – “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God”
• Gal. 3:2 – “Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”
• Conversions in Acts 2:37; 10:33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16; 26:19
HAVING EARS TO HEAR: What We Take From This

• **It Also Applies to Believers!**

  I Cor. 3:1-3 – “could not speak to you as to spiritual but as to carnal;” “for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able” – Are you listening?

  Eph. 5:17 – “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is”

  I Tim. 3:1 – “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the office of bishop, he desires a good work.” Men, are you listening?

• **It Also Applies to Believers!**

  I Tim. 4:1 – “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith” (cp. Acts 20:30-32) – Are you listening?

  II Tim. 4:3 – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine . . . and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fable” – Are you listening?

  Heb. 2:1 – “We must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away” – Are you listening?
• It Also Applies to Believers!

Heb. 5:11 – “of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the sayings of God.”  
- Are you listening?

Heb. 12:5-7 – “you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons . . . If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?”  
- Are you listening?

Heb. 12:25 – “See that you do not refuse Him who speaks”

Heb. 13:22 – “And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation for I have written to you in few words”  
- Are you listening?

I Tim. 1:19-20 – “having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme”  
- Could this be you?