

Are We Listening?

Close to 2,000 years ago, a group of Jews asked our Lord: *"How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."* Jesus answered them, *"I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness about Me, but you do not believe because you are not part of My flock. **My sheep hear My voice**, and I know them, **and they follow Me**. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one"* (John 10:24-30). Jesus' message was simple . . . **Listen to me.**

Throughout our Savior's life, He encountered those who would not listen to Him. In fact, He even pointed out that the actions of those who closed their ears to Him only fulfilled what God said (through His prophet Isaiah) would happen. Jesus told His disciples, *"Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: 'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, **and with their ears they can barely hear**, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes **and hear with their ears and understand with their heart** and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, **and your ears, for they hear.**"* (Matthew 13:14-16).

One of the basic tasks of our Savior was to teach. The author of Hebrews put it this way, *"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days **He has spoken to us by His Son**, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world"* (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Indeed, that is exactly what Jesus did during His life. He spoke . . . some listened and some did not. Though Jesus is not walking the earth anymore literally talking to you, He did make sure that you were not left without instruction. The Holy Spirit worked through those whom God had appointed until His full, complete, revelation had been given to men (1 Corinthians 13:8-12). These men were sent, they preached, and as a result some hearers believed in the Lord. This message is what produced faith in those who heard the message. Plainly stated, *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17). These inspired men also recorded God's message and the Lord preserved His word.

As Peter wrote, *"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, **through the living and abiding word of God**; for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever.**' And this word is the good news that was preached to you"* (1 Peter 1:22-25). Peter also stated that, *"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the***

*knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence," (2 Peter 1:3). Do we lack any of God's word? Absolutely not, because Jude clearly instructed his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to, "contend for the faith that was **once for all delivered to the saints**" (Jude 1:3). You can be sure that God has told us all we need to know and has preserved His word. The real question is: **Are you listening?***

Faith in God will only come through hearing His word. Paul reminded the saints in Thessalonica that God had "**called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, **either by our spoken word or by our letter****" (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15). To be a child of God you must first begin by listening to Him. The fact is that we start out by listening, and as you can see from the above passage, we never stop listening. The day we plug our ears is the day our relationship with the Lord begins to crumble and your faith in the Lord begins to fade away. Again, the Lord is calling for you . . . **will you listen?**

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