

"Can You Hear Me, Now?"

-God

"The ONE Thing That Changes Everything" series- Part 02

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: What is one thing you really like about yourself?

Let's get on the same page -

Challenging his wife with a riddle, the man began, "You're the engineer of a train. There are 36 people on board. At the first stop, 10 get off and 2 get on. At the next stop, no one gets off, but 5 get on. At the third stop, 4 get off and 2 get on. Now for the question: What is the name of the engineer?"

"How should I know?" snapped the wife.

"See, you never listen! Right at the start I said, 'You are the engineer of a train.'"

That little story shows how we often fail to listen carefully to each other, so we can imagine the difficulties we may face in hearing correctly from God. Discuss some of the obstacles that you have found to hearing what God is saying to you in your personal life:

Jesus would teach on several occasions on the importance of listening carefully to God. His Parable of the Sower is a great example:

Book: Luke 8:9-18

Luke 8:9 His disciples asked Him what this parable meant.

*Luke 8:10 He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: 'When they look, they won't really see. **When they hear, they won't understand.**'"*

Luke 8:11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word.

*Luke 8:12 The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those **who hear the message**, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.*

*Luke 8:13 The seeds on the rocky soil represent those **who hear the message** and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.*

*Luke 8:14 The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those **who hear the message**, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.*

*Luke 8:15 And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people **who hear God's word**, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.*

Luke 8:16 "No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house.

Luke 8:17 For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

*Luke 8:18 **"So pay attention to how you hear.** To those who listen to My teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them."*

Let's get into the Word:

Read verse 10 again. Jesus speaks about two groups of people. Who are these two groups, how would you describe them, and how will they listen to God?

Does Jesus want to conceal the truths of God's Kingdom? Why or why not?

Jesus provides an explanation to the Parable of the Sower in verses 12-15. Study each verse and discuss the following: What is the obstacle to carefully listening to God's word? What is the result of not truly listening to what is revealed?

Verse 12:

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

Verse 15:

According to verses 16-17, what two functions does the light of God's word perform in our lives?

1.

2.

In verse 18, Jesus teaches that when it comes to listening or not listening to His word, there are two different results. What are those results and give possible examples of those results:

1. Result #1:

2. Result #2:

How can we avoid self-deception as in Jesus' example of the one who thinks he has spiritual knowledge but really has none at all (Vs. 18b)?

When it comes to hearing God's truths, why is it important to ask oneself, "How can I be obedient to this truth?"

Getting personal (with self)!

Read Luke 8:19-21. How do these verses compliment the truths taught in verses 9-18?

How can we keep Bible reading from becoming dull and routine? How can we stay fresh in the Word each day?