How to Listen to a Sermon

Bubba Garner · Acts 17:10–11

INTRODUCTION

- We spend so much time making certain in every other area of our worship service that our mind is in the right place.
- How utterly amazing is the general assumption that the ability to listen well is a natural gift for which no training is required.
- Maybe we should give attention to how to listen to the sermon, because we all have responsibility in this regard.

1 Listen With an Open Bible

Acts 17:10–11; 1 John 4:1; Acts 18:24–28

- The most important thing you can do, is to listen, number one, with an open Bible.
- These were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.
- How much more ought we to do when a mere man stands before us and speaks to us from the word of God? We need to listen with an open Bible.
- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because false prophets have gone out into the world.
- They took him aside and explained this to him. How could they do that? Because they were listening with an open Bible.

2 Listen With an Attentive Mind

Acts 17:11; Nehemiah 8:1–3

- Not only do you have the responsibility to be attentive yourself, but make certain that you're not being a distraction that would cause someone else not to listen with an attentive mind.
- Doesn't then the preacher have the right to expect that everyone also is going to be prepared?
- With great eagerness, a word that might be translated in your Bible, willingness or readiness. Were you eager this morning to come and hear God's word proclaimed?
- From early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand, and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- They listened with an attentive mind, because this information that they were listening to was the most important thing that was happening.

3 Listen With a Receptive Heart

Acts 2:37; James 1:21–25

- It is the heart that is the target of the sermon. That's where the preacher is aiming.

- When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?
- Some hearts will be fertile and good and honest, and even bear fruit themselves.
- In humility, receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word and not merely hearers only who delude themselves.
- It takes humility to say, hey, I think the preacher's talking about me.
- Do you know what every one of them said? Is it me, Lord? Surely not I.

4 Listen With a Willing Life

John 21:18–22; 2 Corinthians 3:1–3

- It's not just the hearers only, but those who are doers of the word, who look into the mirror and see that, yeah, that applies to me.
- If you really want to make a preacher's day, then you say something like, boy, I needed that. You really helped me.
- If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me.
- You do what you know you're supposed to do. You do what you've heard said through the word of God, and you respond.
- Are you willing to live what you learn?
- You know how to listen to a sermon? You go live what you learn. And guess what? When you do that, you become a sermon yourself.

THE CHALLENGE

Whatever else I say this week, don't listen to me. Listen to Him.

MY NOTES