

# Sermon Guide



## **"Ears to Hear"** **May 8, 2022**

*"He who has ears, let him hear... [T]his 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."*

**Matthew 13:1-23**

In this Sunday's teaching, JC challenged us to listen to Jesus words and ask the question, "God, what are you speaking to me?" Today's culture is contentious. We easily find ourselves applying God's Words to the lives of others or to a cause we hold dear. By doing this, we take the role of the Holy Spirit for our community. Jesus Himself reminds us that our primary task is to evaluate our own lives (Matthew 7:5). We need "ears to hear" God's invitation to each of us as individuals to grow deeper as a new person.

As you read through the passage, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. He alone gives us soft hearts. Then, spend some time prayerfully reflecting on the questions below.

**Matthew 13:11:** In what ways has God revealed "the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven" (His Word and His purposes) to you recently?

**Matthew 13:15:** How has God healed you when the Word convicted you of sin? In what ways do you still experience a dull heart?

**Matthew 13:21:** Have there been times you received the Word with joy but then felt your heart begin to harden when trials came?

**Matthew 13:21:** How is your busy schedule and "the cares of this world" keeping you from being fruitful?

**Matthew 13:23:** In what ways do you see the Word of God bearing fruit in your life?

**We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus.** As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to? Asking God daily to give you "ears to hear"? Slowing down your schedule for loving communion with God? Focusing on your own life instead of being the Holy Spirit for others?

If you experience resistance during your reflection time, remember that the Holy Spirit is available to you. Ask Him to soften your heart and empower you to overcome sin.