God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Guard Your Ears

Speaker: Mercedes Condon

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Mark 4:24 (NIV)**

  "Consider carefully what you hear"

  Jesus calls His listeners to pay careful attention to His teaching. Mercedes applies that attentiveness to the voices we welcome through entertainment and conversation. Guarding our ears begins with receiving God's truth, not simply avoiding every uncomfortable message.

- **John 10:27 (NIV)**

  "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

  Jesus describes the relationship between the Shepherd and His sheep: He knows them, and they follow Him. Knowing His voice means trusting and obeying Him. We grow in discernment by becoming familiar with His words and character in Scripture, rather than treating every inner impression as His direction.

- **Romans 10:17 (NIV)**

  "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ."

  Paul is speaking about hearing the good news of Christ. Faith is rooted in that message, not merely in positive sounds or agreeable opinions. Scripture, faithful teaching and Christ-centered encouragement help us keep that good news before us.

- **Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)**

  "This is the way; walk in it."

  In a promise of restoration, God assures His people of His instruction and guidance. This invites humble, responsive obedience. It does not promise an audible instruction for every decision; we can seek His wisdom and take the next faithful step without demanding a dramatic sign.

- **Proverbs 17:4 (NIV)**

  "A wicked person listens to deceitful lips; a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue."

  This proverb exposes a willing appetite for deceit and destructive speech. The listener has responsibility too. We can refuse to feed gossip while still listening compassionately to someone's pain, receiving needed correction and seeking truthful help.

Discussion Questions

- Mercedes asks what she allows to enter in when she wants to unwind. Which recurring source of entertainment or conversation most shapes your thoughts afterward? What have you noticed?
- How would your listening habits change if you treated attention as something to steward? Where do you need a boundary, and where do you need to listen more carefully?
- What helps you distinguish Christ's teaching from a message that simply agrees with your preferences? How can Scripture and trustworthy believers help you test what you hear?
- When gossip begins, what makes it difficult to redirect or leave the conversation? How could you respond with both courage and care for the people involved?
- Think of a decision for which you want a clear sign. What faithful action can you take now while continuing to seek God's wisdom?

Reflection Challenge

For the next three days, pay attention to what receives your ears. Notice how one regular input affects your thoughts, attitude and treatment of others. Make one realistic change and replace that time with something that turns your attention toward Christ.

Ask yourself:

- What do I repeatedly hear, and what fruit is it producing in my daily life?
- Am I making room for God's Word, or only hoping His direction will rise above everything else?
- Am I avoiding destructive speech, or also avoiding truthful correction that I need?

Try this:

- Write down one source that regularly feeds anger, gossip or suspicion. Mute it, limit it or step away from it for three days.
- Use that time to read or listen to one passage from this study in its surrounding chapter. Write one truth about Christ and one response you can practice.
- Prepare a kind response to gossip, such as, 'I don't know the whole situation. How could we help instead?'
- At the end of the three days, tell a trusted believer what you noticed and which listening habit you want to continue.

Remember

- Not every voice deserves influence in your life.
- Listening to Jesus includes following Him.
- Faith is nourished by the message about Christ.
- What we repeatedly welcome can shape our thoughts and choices.
- Guarding your ears leaves room for truth, compassion and needed correction.
- A small, faithful change in what you listen to is a practical place to begin.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for knowing me and speaking truth through Your Word. Show me which voices I have allowed to shape my heart. Help me turn away from gossip, deceit and habits that pull my attention from You. Give me a growing love for the good news of Jesus, humility to receive correction and courage to choose what is good. When I want a dramatic sign, help me obey the truth You have already given. Teach me to listen carefully and follow You faithfully.

In Jesus' name, Amen.