

I. REVIEW

- Previous Session: “Hearing, Receiving, and Responding”
- How the soil receives the seed makes a difference.
- It is possible to hear without receiving.
- The “necessary” response.

II. REAPING THE HARVEST OF HEALING

A. The Parable of the Growing Seed

1. Mark 4:26-29

NKJV “And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. **For the earth yields crops by itself:** first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”

TPT “Jesus also told them this parable: ‘God’s kingdom realm is like someone spreading seed on the ground. He goes to bed and gets up, day after day, and the seed sprouts and grows tall, though he knows not how. All by itself it sprouts, and **the soil produces a crop**; first the green stem, then the head on the stalk, and then the fully developed grain in the head. Then, when the grain is ripe, he immediately puts the sickle to the grain, because harvest time has come.’”

- 2.** The results of the harvest are directly connected to the condition of the soil.
 - a. The seed is always perfect.
 - b. The condition of the soil determines how well the seed produces.
- 3.** The seed is perfect. Our responsibility is the soil.
 - a. God supplies the perfect seed of His Word, but **we are responsible for the condition of our hearts and how we receive that Word.**
 - b. The condition of the soil determines the measure of the harvest.

PASTOR'S PERSONAL QUESTION: *How is it that some people can hear the Word taught again and again, yet it seems that there is no spiritual hearing? What keeps a person from spiritually hearing a Word they have heard many times naturally?*

If you never spiritually hear the message, the seed of the Word will never take root in your heart and, without the seed taking root, there can be no harvest.

B. The Hearing Issue

1. Matthew 13: 10-16

TPT “Then his disciples approached Jesus and asked, ‘Why do you always speak to people in these hard-to-understand parables?’ He explained, ‘You’ve been given the intimate experience of insight into the hidden mysteries of the realm of heaven’s kingdom, but they have not. For everyone who listens with an open heart will receive progressively more revelation until he has more than enough.

But those who don’t listen with an open, teachable heart, even the understanding that they think they have will be taken from them. That’s why I teach the people using parables, because they think they’re looking for truth, yet because their hearts are unteachable, they never discover it. **Although they will listen to me, they never fully perceive the message I speak. The prophecy of Isaiah describes them perfectly:** Although they listen carefully to everything I speak, they don’t understand a thing I say. They look and pretend to see, but the eyes of their hearts are closed. **Their minds are dull and slow to perceive, their ears are plugged and are hard of hearing, and they have deliberately shut their eyes to the truth.** Otherwise they would open their eyes to see, and open their ears to hear and open their minds to understand. Then they would turn to me and I would instantly heal them. But blissful are your eyes, for they see. Delighted are your ears, for they are open to hear all these things.”

- a. **No Hearing** = “*I’m not hearing it.*”
- b. **Selective Hearing** = “*I only hear what I want to hear.*”
- c. **Impaired Hearing** = “*Something is hindering my ability to hear clearly.*”

2. The ability to hear is the ability to receive.

a. **Isaiah 55:3**

NKJV “Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.”

NIV “give ear”

NLT “come with your ears wide open”

HCSB “pay attention, come to me – listen so you may live”

b. **Proverbs 4:20-23**

NKJV “My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.”

c. The #1 reason why people have spiritual hearing issues is lack of attention.

3. “Hardness of heart”

- a. A spiritual condition in which a person’s heart becomes insensitive, resistant, or unresponsive to God, His Word, and His leading.
- b. A hard heart affects spiritual hearing.
- c. The reason for lack of spiritual hearing isn’t that God is not speaking, it is that the heart (soil) is not properly receiving what God has said.
- d. The issue is not an inability to hear but rather an **unwillingness** to hear.

4. Hearing requires something.

C. The Difference in Hearers and Non-Hearers

1. **Acts 10:13-15**

NKJV “And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*. Now a certain woman named **Lydia heard us**. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, **who worshiped God.**” **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.** And when she and her household were

baptized, **she begged us**, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, **come to my house and stay.**’ So, she persuaded us.”

2. Lydia was known as a worshipper.
3. Lydia was listening with the goal of hearing what Paul was saying.
4. God opened her heart!
 - a. God opens the hearts of those who are interested in hearing.
 - b. **ESV** “...the Lord opened her heart to pay attention...”
5. She wasn’t satisfied with one message. She begged them to come to her house.
 - a. Hearers are not satisfied; they always want more.

PASTOR’S NOTE: *Too often there is no response to what we hear. To offer **NO** response to what you have heard is to leave the benefit untouched on the table.*

D. Invitation and Response / Pursuit Required

1. Moses turned aside to see the burning bush—he approached it.
 - a. How do I become a hearer? Whenever there is a spark of revelation, **turn toward it** to see and hear more.
2. What you value and steward, you will attract more of into your life.
 - a. Negativity → negative people will find you.
 - b. Gossip → gossipers will confide in you.
 - c. Vulgarity → those with filthy language and dirty jokes will share with you.
3. Revelation attracts revelation.
 - a. God will send more revelation to you if you truly value it and will steward it!