

## *Eyes That See & Ears That Hear*

Look, it's great to *follow in the footsteps of Jesus* and I guess that statement means that we love our brothers and sisters, we preach the gospel to the unbelievers but these efforts, in my mind, seem to be minimized somewhat by *playing church*.

I know that sounds cynical and it probably is, (I'm a cynical person), but maybe some people get too involved in church activities to really take some time every day, in a quiet place, and open the Book and try to read with some understanding.

The trap may be that people get too involved in showing others how Christian they are and they neglect their own soul.

I never put too much stock in going to church, even though from the time I can remember until I was about twelve years old, I was in church six days a week. Going to a Catholic school will do that to you. Thanks Mom.

And over the years I saw the church changing and I eventually stopped going, although occasionally, when going through a troublesome time in my life, I would find a Catholic church and, if the doors weren't locked, I would go in and sit and pray.

Just being in that building brought some comfort to me, as shallow as it was. It was like stepping back into a memory for just a moment, a time when life was not so troublesome, but it was just a fleeting moment and, after leaving that building, life went on as before.

Many years later I figured out that what the memory lacked was a true connection with our Lord. The trappings of the church had me hooked in and it made me feel good, to a certain extent, and I think that many other people may have that same feeling. But doing the *work of the church* didn't bring me one step closer to what I really needed.

I moved from Catholicism to Protestantism and that was even worse. Trust me, I wasn't going out looking for a religion per se but circumstances in my life put me in both positions, it wasn't that I sought them out on purpose.

The rules and regulations of Catholicism were absent and there was nothing that melded everyone together, there was no common bond of any sort. It was like freelance religion.

In Catholicism, everybody seemed to stay within themselves but in these other churches everybody knew everybody else's business. Gossip was rampant, cliques were just about everywhere you looked and everyone seemed to have their own definition of what God and religion was all about.

The sermons were a carbon copy of one another. A priest could bore you to death about as fast as a preacher could bring you to tears, with words that didn't mean a thing to anyone except the person speaking them; and at times, I got the distinct feeling that even the priest/pastor doing the speaking was boring himself as well.

Stammering and losing your train of thought is a pretty sure sign.

Needless to say, I wasn't looking for a church but when I got involved with them they were pretty disappointing. Even when the Apostle Paul was setting up the church back in the book of Acts he was constantly having to deal with problems within the churches.

Many of his letters to these churches were intended to quell disagreement and unrest and sort out and remove lies and distortions that kept creeping back in. A lot of the New Testament is made up of these letters that he sent.

Satan was pretty busy back in those days when the church was a newborn concept, trying to keep them from being successful, stop them from promoting the teachings and truths of Christ and the early development of the contents of the future New Testament.

Not being able to do it by himself he had a lot of people willing to do it for him and over the centuries that followed, he was able to work in heresies, abominations and practices that flourish even today. And many people believe them and take them as gospel.

Good job, Satan. Well done. Give credit where credit is due.

But then, every once in a while, the Holy Spirit will have his way in this world and a good bible-teaching pastor will come along. And he'll be persecuted and defamed and ridiculed but he will press on, he won't be deterred, and some will teach for fifty years or more.

A single light in a world of spiritual darkness and thank God for them. They are the modern day prophets, the visionaries whom the Spirit has touched with the knowledge of truth. And they have the stones to take anything thrown at them and keep on truckin'.

They are ignored by most people but, now and then, someone out there will be listening and their ears will perk up. Their heads will poke up out of that hole in the ground like a gopher out on the prairie.

Their eyes will squint into slits, they'll cock their heads to one side, and they'll try to determine if this is just another lying mouth with glistening teeth and a tale to tell or if there is some kind of substance there.

And when that spiritual voice in the back of their mind tells them that this fellow is worth listening to, they will stick with him. And they will develop eyes that see and ears that hear.

And that, my friend, is the blessing that follows.

That's an interesting phrase, isn't it? "Eyes that see and ears that hear". Trust me, that is not an original concept from me;

*Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

*Matthew 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*

Having eyes that see and ears that hear is not something that you can do for yourself. You have to have spiritual help.

Mortal man never used those words in Scripture, only the Lord did and when He spoke those words, a feeling of authority should have passed over you for that indeed was what you heard...authority;

*Matthew 7:29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

These aren't the words of some church traditionalist that speaks with lying lips.

Our Lord used this phrase seven times during His time in the flesh and it's a figure of speech that means *the repetition of the same verb in a different inflection, by which the emphasis is put upon the injunction given*. A **polyptoton**, if you will.

Wow. Really?

All that means is that you can see and hear beyond the obvious, the things on the surface, the things that everybody can see; you can get the deeper message and meaning. And that has to come from the Holy Spirit. Who uses good teachers at times.

And it doesn't just come to you out of the blue; it's not something that's given to you, you have to **work for it** and then you might receive it.

How do you work for it? By studying the Word, the Bible. By reading with understanding. By sincere prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for help in understanding. But **you** have to open the Book and do the **reading**. Won't work any other way.

It's not as hard as you might think. Christ gave us seven parables, one of them repeated twice, making eight in total. Parables are allegoric stories designed to illustrate or teach a deep truth. Christ said that not all people would understand these parables and He designed it that way, it was a purposeful thing.

Only those with eyes that see and ears that hear would understand them and that is remarkable because whenever He gave a parable He would immediately give an explanation of what it meant! And still some people couldn't understand it?

The first occasion is the ***Parable of the Sower***;

*Luke 8:5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*

*Luke 8:6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.*

*Luke 8:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*

*Luke 8:8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Luke 8:9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?*

*Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; **that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.***

*Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this:*

Here is the explanation...

*The seed is the word of God.*

*Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.*

*Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

*Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*

*Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

(Want me to mess around with you for a minute? Do you see that verses **6, 7, 8, 9**, and **10** all begin with the word **and**? That's called a **polysyndeton** which is the repeating of the word **and** at the beginning of successive clauses to bring attention to each clause with no climax or payoff at the end.)

The *dispensational teaching* of this parable is that this is how different people will react differently when they hear the true Word spoken during these end times. Some heard the truth and rejected it while others heard it and took it to heart; some heard and understood but were deceived into believing otherwise by Satan.

The second occasion comes in *Matthew 11:15*. Our Lord is speaking to the twelve Apostles concerning John the Baptist and the prophet Elijah. Christ points out that if the people had paid attention to the words of John the Baptist and repented of their ways and sins then John would have indeed come in the spirit of Elijah.

And as the people did not believe John and they did to him what they did, they cut his head off, the same would happen to the Messiah; they would neither believe Him and would crucify Him;

*Matthew 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?*

*Matthew 11:8 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.*

*Matthew 11:9 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.*

*Matthew 11:10 For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*

*Matthew 11:11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

*Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*

*Matthew 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.*

*Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.*

*Matthew 11:15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Matthew 11:16 But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows,*

*Matthew 11:17 And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented.*

*Matthew 11:18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.*

*Matthew 11:19 The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.*

The third and fourth occasions of this exhortation is a repeat of the Parable of the Sower in *Matthew 13:9*;

*Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

And again at the end of the explanation of the parable in *Matthew 13:43*;

*Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

An understanding of this parable will give one a complete overview of how people deal with and handle the Truth.

The fifth occasion comes in Mark with the use of the **lamp** in explaining the mysteries of the Kingdom that heretofore had been kept in secret;

*Mark 4:21 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?*

*Mark 4:22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.*

*Mark 4:23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.*

*Mark 4:24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

*Mark 4:25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.*

*Mark 4:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;*

*Mark 4:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.*

*Mark 4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.*

*Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

*Mark 4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?*

*Mark 4:31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:*

*Mark 4:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.*

The sixth occasion comes in **Mark 7:16**;

*Mark 7:14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:*

*Mark 7:15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.*

*Mark 7:16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.*

Every man has the ability to control the things that he takes into his mind, such as, false teachings vs truth and if truth enters in he is not defiled and if then he speaks the truth the words that come out of his mouth will not defile him either;

But if evil enters a man, by whatever cause or force, that which comes out of his mouth is then evil and vile for the truth does not lie in it.

The final occasion, here on earth, is in **Luke 14:35**;

*Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

*Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

*Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

*Luke 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,*

*Luke 14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*

*Luke 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?*

*Luke 14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.*

*Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

*Luke 14:34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?*

*Luke 14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

This has to do with discipleship and the costs to a man that follows it. Those that came near to Him to hear what He was saying and did not understand He likened to salt that had lost its flavor, and salt, without its flavor, is not even fit for a pile of bull\_\_\_\_. (Dung?)

There are eight other occasions that our Lord used this phraseology but it was after His Ascension and surprisingly all are found in Revelation;

*Revelation 2:7 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

*Revelation 2:11 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*

*Revelation 2:17 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

*Revelation 2:29 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

*Revelation 3:6 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

*Revelation 3:13 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

*Revelation 3:22 **He that hath an ear, let him hear** what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

Pay close attention and notice that each occurrence has to do with the seven churches. What was happening with these churches? Christ said that He found only two out of the seven that were teaching according to the His Word and pointing out that the leaven within these five churches was that they were not teaching the people concerning the Kenites and who they were.

*Revelation 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.*

This last one has to do with the religious beast, chapter 13 being referred to as the **beast** chapter. This religious beast being Satan in his role as the Antichrist.

It's not for me to say, or for you to listen to what I have to say, but it would seem to me that if you are attending a church that is more concerned with bake sales, breakfasts on Saturday morning to raise additional money or Christmas boxes for the kids, you might have a spiritual problem.

If all you get are sermons that make you nod off, the subject of which is forgotten by the time that you reach the parking lot to go home, it doesn't seem that you are getting any spiritual food for your soul.

The Apostle Paul told us that one of the mysteries of God was understanding that there will be people alive when the Antichrist comes, not all will have died a physical death, how are you going to withstand the temptations of this powerful entity if you don't have a foundation to fall back on.

Our Lord said that these falsehoods from Satan, during this time, will be so strong that even His *Elect* may succumb to them even though they know what the truth is!

Hey, there's still time. Find a church that teaches from the Scriptures and not the minds of men as most of them do. There are good teachers out there and the Holy Spirit put them there specifically for people during this part of this dispensation.

Stop fooling around and stop playing church.