**HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR**

***Idioms With Spiritual Applications (#4)***

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matt. 11:15; 13:9; 13:43)

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Mk. 4:9; 4:23; 7:16)

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Lk. 8:8; 14:35)

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
 (Rev. 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22).

Jesus spoke every one of those sayings above. He came into this world as the *LOGOS*, that is, “*The Word*” (Jn. 1:1, 14). Not “a word.” Not “one of the words.” But “the one and only Word.” He came to speak of “The Way, The Truth, The Life,” pleading loud and long that lost men would hear Him. Are you listening?

The ear, like all the rest of the human body, is “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psa. 139:13). It could not have evolved in a hundred thousand million billion trillion years!

Unlike our eyes, our ears do not have lids. They are meant to remain open 24/7/365. They are never at rest. As I speak, my diaphragm, vocal chords, throat, mouth, teeth and tongue move in intricate ways to produce a complex of sound waves or vibrations in the air. They transmit a message intended for those with ears (receivers) to hear.

These two cup-holder looking devices on the sides of our head are made up of the Outer Ear, the Middle Ear, and the Inner Ear. They can receive sound vibration frequencies from as low as 20 cycles per second (called Hertz) up to 20,000 Hz per second. The lowest A key on the piano is 27 Hertz. The middle C is 262 Hz. The highest key is 4,186 Hz. The decibel (dB) level is the unit which measures the loudness of a sound. Anything below 85 dB will not damage your hearing. Anything above it can cause damage or deafness. A bluebird chirping or a lover whispering sweet nothings in your ear are pleasant sounds. But a garbage disposal, chain saw, firecracker or especially a gunshot can damage the ears permanently in as little as a few minutes.

Download an article on the ear or look it up in your library to truly appreciate the amazing creation of our ears. I just spent about three hours reading on this incredible part of our body. I was blown away by this engineering marvel God gave us. It made me appreciate all the more this miracle we call the human body. It made me want to stop and listen, really listen, to all the sounds around me that I take for granted. I want to hear a baby crying (yes, even when I’m preaching), the birds chirping (except at camp at 2:oo am), the car engine humming (mine rattles), my wife singing (angelic), and … most importantly, my Lord speaking.

When the Verizon commercial asks, “Can you hear me now?” it doesn’t really matter whether I can or can’t. I tire of that phone ringing. But when Jesus says, “Can you hear Me now?” I want to raise both hands and shout, “I hear you loud and clear!” Whether God speaks in a still, small voice or in a tornado, earthquake, or fire (1 Kgs. 19:11-12), I want to be able to say with young Samuel, “*Speak Lord, thy servant hears*” (1 Sam. 3:10). I want to hear, really hear, every syllable from His voice and become more than a hearer, but a doer (Jam. 1:21-25). I want to be able to repeat back to my Master every command He has given me and then, like a good steward, become such a disciple that He will say upon inspection of my work, “*Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord*” (Matt. 25:21). Now that’s having ears to hear.

Sadly, far too many, even some who claim to be His followers, are tone deaf at the sound of Christ’s voice. The sounds of the world have drowned out His gentle voice in their ears and in their hearts. They have ears to hear, but they do not hear. It is the fulfillment of Jesus’ parable of the sower in which He explained to the apostles that the vast majority of those who heard His sermons were deaf. He put it this way:

“*Because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand … For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them*” (Matt. 13:10-15).

He went on to explain the parable by saying the various soils (i.e. ears and hearts) on which the seed (Word of God) was sown revealed that roadside, rocky and thorny ground resulted in ultimate rejection. The first paid absolutely no attention to God’s word. The second was moved only by the emotion of the moment but then forgotten. The third heard it but was soon drowned out by the peripheral sounds of the world. Many are called (hear), but only a few really hear it and commit their lives to it.

Which are you?

As my father aged his hearing kept getting worse and worse. Hearing aids helped slightly, but more often than not aggravated the situation with ringing sounds and loud noises. It is sad to see loved ones lose their ability to hear others speak. But his physical hearing loss did not affect in any way his spiritual hearing. He went to his grave still saying, “Speak Lord, thy servant hears.” I believe he is now clearly hearing angels sing.

“*The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both*” (Prov. 20:12). I thank God for my ability to hear, even the sounds of silence. But I thank God still more that He has given me an “inner ear” that can transmit His words into my head, transform my heart, and conform my life into the image of His Son (Rom. 12:1; 8:29).

“*He who has ears to hear, let him hear*.” The Lord turned that simple phrase into a spiritual idiom that reverberates in all of us who love to hear Him speak.

How’s your hearing? - Rick