

A Promise in Listening

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Listening is _____ and _____ the words of God.

Jesus promises that listening to God teaches us truth and sets us _____.

A Parable about Listening

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

The parable teaches us that listening to God creates a _____ for life.

A Picture of Listening

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed - or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

The picture shows us that listening to God creates a life of _____.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16

Question #2: "How am I living out God's Word today?"

7 Minutes With God

1/2 Minute: Preparing Your Heart

Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart so you can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with your presence during this time."

4 Minutes: Listening to God (Scripture Reading)

Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2 1/2 Minutes: Talking to God (Prayer)

After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer. One method is to incorporate four areas of prayer that you can remember with the word ACTS.

 **Adoration.** *Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.*

 **Confession.** *Having seen Him, you now want to be sure every sin is cleansed and forsaken. "Confession" comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." When we apply this to prayer, it means we agree with God's estimation of what we've done.*

 **Thanksgiving.** *Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, your business, your church— even thank Him for hardships.*

 **Supplication.** *This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself. Include people around the world, missionaries, friends, and those who have yet to hear about Jesus*



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