

KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

Listen

April 11, 2021

A PROMISE IN LISTENING

31 "If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. 32 You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Jesus promises that listening to God teaches us truth that set us _____.

A PARABLE ABOUT LISTENING

24 "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash." Matthew 7:24-27

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

A PICTURE OF LISTENING

38 Jesus entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39 She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand." 41 The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, 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 _____.

A PRACTICE FOR LISTENING - "7 MINUTES WITH GOD" (THE NAVIGATORS, 2012)

½ 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."

4 Minutes: Listening to God (Scripture Reading)

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

2½ 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.

1. Adoration. Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.
2. 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.
3. Thanksgiving. Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, friends, your work, your church - even thank Him for hardships.
4. Supplication. This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself.

RESOURCES

Matt Smethurst, Before You Open Your Bible

Matt's little book contains massive help on how to approach Scripture for both those new and old to reading the Bible.

Jon Nielson, Bible Reading with Your Kids

Jon's short book is full of suggestions, sample plans, and Scripture for helping foster an attentiveness to and a love of listening to God's Word.

John Stott, The Authority of the Bible

Clear and concise, Stott's pamphlet is a classic on what Christians mean when we say that we rest under the authority of God's Word.

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