

Hearing Problems

Steve Berger October 8, 2017

Intro

1. I believe in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).
2. I believe there are demonic forces that seek to persuade people in and out of the church to do the devils will in order to damage, destroy, and divide people and nations (1 Kings 22; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).
3. I believe Christians can fall prey to these forces and actually help further a demonic agenda (2 Timothy 2:24-26).
4. I believe Christians have power and victory over these demonic forces (Luke 10:17-20).
5. I believe what we hear, and how we hear it plays a part in whether we have victory over, or succumb to, demonic influence (Mark 4:23-25, Luke 8:16-18).

Unpack - What we hear” “How we hear” “Undiscerning ear” “Itching ear” “Accusatory ear”

What we hear

- **Mark 4:21-25** - *Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."*
 - **what** you hear - is about **CONTENT**
 - take heed to content because not all good, even harmful, take heed to **what!**
 - same measure you use, measured back to you- hear good and holy, more good and holy... hear evil and unholy, lose what little good and holy hearing you might have.

Undiscerning ear - ear that hungers for any new spiritual sounding thing

- **Acts 17:18-21** - *Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.*
 - Listen - dangerous to live for next new revelation, word, prophecy, dream, etc. Those things are valid but not meant to be your steady diet... Hyper charismatic crowd.

- Undiscerning ears- “I want to hear it if its new.” GET SETTLED IN OLD, DISCERN NEW!

How we hear - same parable of lamp from Mark 4, but notice word change...

- **Luke 8:18** - *Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.*

- **how** you hear- is about **MOTIVE** and **INTENT** in hearing
- take heed- motive for hearing things can be wrong
- 2 Timothy 4 shows us an example of **what** and **how** some hear and introduces us to **ITCHING EARS...**
- 2 Timothy 4:2-4 - *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*
 1. what is- no sound doctrine, turned ears from truth, turned to fables
 2. how is- **ITCHING EARS TUNED TO OWN DESIRES**, wanting to hear what I already desire and have made my mind up about... Spiritually, Politically, Socially etc.
 3. heap up teachers- find as many as possible to reinforce my desires.
 4. **Word of faith crowd...** confess any desire and God MUST do if faith

Question - What happened to hearing for truths sake rather than our own desires?

Fact - we must be rooted in God's Word, sound doctrine, whether it contradicts our desires or not! Let's not have itching ears!

Accusatory ear - ears that listen for mistakes in order to pounce on, label, and accuse others. Pharisee ears... Jesus is rebuking them...

- **Luke 11:53-54** - *And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.*

- doesn't this sound like a pleasant bunch...
- assail vehemently, cross-examine, lie in wait, seeking to catch, might accuse
- **Apologetics crowd...** self-appointed heresy hunters, “doctrinal purists”

Fact - if you listen to pounce, punch, prosecute... if you listen to catch and accuse, you have accusatory ears.

On the subject of accusation - let's take another look...

- 1 Timothy 5:19 - *Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.*
- don't receive, hear or listen to any accusation against an elder unless there are 2 or 3 witnesses where the accusation can be firmly established.
- some church people like to accuse, some church people like to listen to accusations against spiritual leaders, the devil loves it, tries to divide people
- it comes with my calling, still hate when it happens
- ... social media, websites, videos, texts, conversations, pedophile, murderer, thief, false teacher, necromancer, death threats, etc. Courts, Sheriffs, FBI involved...
- **SAD** - that people say such things, sadder that others actually listen, with no witnesses, this sin goes all the way back to the Garden when Satan accused God and Adam and Eve listened.
- **At issue for Board** - when is enough, enough, hoped people involved would repent, you warn them of consequences of sinful behavior, still don't stop...
 - 1 Timothy 5:20 - *Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.*
 - 1 Timothy 3:10-11 - *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*
 - I'm confident the Board will know what to do and when...
- **Interesting**- accusers are often times the most guilty people around, think of the devil, they accuse others to hide or deflect their own guilt... Liable Fraudulent Conveyance Federal Court!, Blackmailing text messages, verbally abusive to children. Unreal!
- **Squashing accusation and gossip**
 - obey the Word and don't listen at all.
 - "Wait, wait, before you say another word, as soon as you finish, I'm calling the accused, quoting you, and hearing their side of it... ok, go ahead."

Conclusion

- **Nation** - want to hear new dirt, corruption, guilt, shame, we want to hear from those who will tell us what we want to hear, who support and strengthen our own personal bias', regardless of truth, we listen to assail, cross-examine, catch and accuse
- **Church** - often times we surrender to the same spirit yet in a different arena, we listen for the newest revelation, doctrine or idea because we don't trust the reliability of the ancient, we heap up teachers to embolden our selfish desires, we have accusatory ears that leads to accusatory speech, damage, division, and destruction!
- **Beloved** - these things ought not be named among us... this behavior is killing the nation, the church and it's testimony... it must stop.

- **Closing scripture - Galatians 5:13-15** - *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!*
- **Fact** - too much biting, devouring and consuming one another... let's serve one another with love instead.
 - Let's repent of our undiscerning ears, our itching ears, and our accusatory ears.
 - Let's quit listening to the devil's agenda and furthering it through our words.
 - Let's be quick to hear and slow to speak.
 - Let's not have any more hearing problems.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss and answer Pastor Steve's question, "What happened to hearing for truths sake rather than our own desires?"
2. Have you knowingly received an accusation (not even necessarily against an elder/pastor/leader) and immediately been accusatory? How did you respond?
3. Are there any particular "ears" that you find you struggle with most (e.g., Undiscerning, Itching, Accusatory, etc.).
4. In Galatians 5:15, how do you "bite and devour one another...consume one another?"
5. What are some practices that you can implement to be "quick to hear, slow to speak"?