



June 8 & 9, 2019

We Don't Listen Well

Mark 4:1-20

God's voice is worth listening to.

Anything Jesus says is important.

Mark 4:1 ¹Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

Tips for listening to God's Voice:

1. Be ready to receive, and aware of Satan's schemes.

Mark 4:3-4 ³"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up."

2. Don't let trouble, persecution, or difficulty dry your soil up from listening to God.

Mark 4:5-6 ⁵"Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."

3. Don't let the weeds/thorns of life choke out God's voice.

Mark 4:7 ⁷"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain."

4. When our hearts are good soil, Jesus speaks and He wants us to hear.

Mark 4:8-9 ⁸"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." ⁹Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Lessons to help us maintain a good soil for listening to God:

1. Seek God out and deliberately set time to listen to him.
2. Allow the farmer (God) to plant seeds.
3. Continually check the soil (your heart) and work to keep it ready to hear God.
4. Water the seeds and the soil. – John 4:13-14
5. Provide sunlight for the seeds and soil. – John 8:12 & John 9:5
6. Remove the weeds that choke you.
7. Prune the fruit (crops) that comes from the seeds. – John 15
8. Churn the soil with tools (prayer, scripture, and worship) to keep it fresh.
9. Listen to other godly people in your life.
10. Be still and know that He is God. – Psalm 46:10