

“THE ART OF HEARING”

(Dale G. Hudson – April 28, 2019)

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

(Deut. 6:4-5 “The Shema”)

In the parable of “The sower and the seed” (Matt13, Mark 4, and Luke 8), Jesus is sharing what happens or what the possibilities are from hearing the word or what happens depending on the condition of the heart in the receptiveness of the seed of the word.

- 1) Wayside – (Turn Row) – Hard ground
- 2) Stony Ground – Not much soil
- 3) Among Thorns – (In thorn bushes – choking)
- 4) Good Ground – 30, 60, 100-fold return

Jesus called this parable extremely important because if this parable had not been understood, the disciples (Talmudim) would not have been able to understand any of the parables. The same is true for us, his present-day disciples.

Jesus ends the parable with the phrase, “He that has ears to hear, let him hear.” With the intent of quickly obeying!

Here we find the importance of “Hearing.” We will never be successful if we don’t learn to hear and obey.

James 1:19 – “So then my beloved brethren, be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath [get angry]....”

God puts a high priority on “Hearing.” We should only speak, profess, or confess based on what we have heard from God/His Word.

Jesus said:

- ❖ “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” (Deut. 8:3)
 - ❖ “It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.” (Deut. 6:13)
 - ❖ “It has been said, you shall not tempt the Lord your God.” (Deut. 6:16)
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In “Hearing” the Word of God, the only way to exercise the “two-edged sword (two-mouthed sword) is to speak in agreement (sumphónéó or symphónéó – which means - I call out with, agree with, say the same thing); to harmonize / to concur or stipulate (by compact or covenant)

Sumphónéó – (Syn – “Together with” and “Phoné, “Sound, voice” which is the English word symphony) – Properly voicing the same opinion because of like-mindedness.

For, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach Him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.” (I Cor. 2:16)

See Isaiah 40:13; John 15:15

I Kings 3 – Solomon did not ask, per se, for wisdom, but what he asked for was an “understanding heart.”

In a dream (vision at night), God offers Solomon the golden ring. God say, “Ask!” “What shall I give you?” Wow!!

After Solomon’s request, the Bible says, “Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing.”

What was it about Solomon’s request that caused God to not only give Him what he asked, but also to give him wealth beyond imagination, wealth and honor, so that there will not be anyone equal to him among the kings for all his days? “And God says, “If you walk in My ways, keeping My commandments, as your Father David did, then I will lengthen your days (or in other words, “After you have lived your life, I will add to your years!!!).

An Understanding Heart – “lev shome” – a listening heart or a “hearing ear.”

The word “shome” is from the root Shama. It is the same word used in the Jewish confession recited everyday by orthodox Jews: “Hear, O’ Israel, the Lord our God the Lord is One!”

The word “shama” not only means to hear but to hear and obey as well as listening, hearing with deep spiritual insight.

“And it shall come to pass, if you shall carefully listen to My commandments which I command you this day....”

“Now then if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My commandments, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for the earth is Mine.” (Exodus 19:5)

Carefully listen to, indeed obey/ Heb. – Shamo Tishmeoo – is the verb shama repeated twice.

The word “shama” also means “to obey.” Thus God is saying “If you hear – hear My voice” or “If you obey – obey My voice.”

Or perhaps He has both definitions in mind at once: “If you hear-obey my voice.”

The repetition of the verb also acts like an exclamation point in a language without punctuation.

God told Moses to tell Israel not just to listen to His words, but to obey what He says. (Insight, Agreement and Obedience!)

The blessing of the covenant and the manifestation thereof hinges on the small (but massive) word “If.”