

A hearing heart

Jesus said 16 times – **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**
Can hear the sound but not the message ! Acts 9:7 ≠ Acts 22:9

Ability to hear from God comes from the condition of your heart

Matt. 13:14,15 hearing you will hear and shall not understand...The heart of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing...

Your faith is contingent upon your ability to hear from God

Rom. 10:17 Faith comes by hearing... hearing by the Word of God.

The parable of the sower is the key to a hearing Heart & Revelation Matt. 13 ; Mark 4 ; Luke 8

"Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?" Mark 4:13

4 TYPES OF SOIL... 4 types of heart

*"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When He had said these things **He cried**, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!' " Luke 8:5-8*

Wayside, Rocky soil, Thorny soil, Good soil ► The good soil is the only one that bore fruit.

HOW TO HAVE A HEARING HEART – A GOOD SOIL

1) PURPOSE in your heart

❖ It starts with a strong desire

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding (HEARING) heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil." 1 King 3:9

"Here's what I want: Give me a God-listening heart so I can lead your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil." 1 King 3:9 Message

If NO DESIRE... ask God Phil 2:13

❖ Jesus reveals that some do not really want to hear the truth

*"Because the heart of this people has become dull - with their ears they barely hear, and **their eyes they have closed**, so as not to see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and turn, so that I could heal them." Matt. 13:15 TPT – They have deliberately shut their eyes to the truth...*

► Some do not want to hear truth for fear to have to turn & change - Truth demands that we make some changes

Prov. 1:2-7 To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive the instruction of wisdom... a wise man will hear and increase learning... to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.

Prov. 8:13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil

Prov. 3:7 Fear the Lord and depart from evil

❖ **Will have to make a firm decision in your heart**

Because you are **going against the current of this world.**

Matt. 11:12 The Kingdom of God suffers violence but the violent take it by force

Dan. 1:8 Daniel purposed in his heart

2) PAY the price

Matt. 13:44-46 Will have to value God's Word & Truth like a **pearl of great price or a hidden treasure.**

You will not pursue what you do not VALUE.

Have you seen someone looking for gold or lost treasures? They will do whatever it takes.

Mark 4:11 To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables.

*Prov. 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is **to search out** a matter.*

Are you a follower... or a DISCIPLE?

Rocky shallow soil – Shallow & superficial heart

Mark 4:5-6 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

❖ No depth of earth - Heard the Word on a superficial level

❖ No root - Not willing to dig deep in the Word... Why? No thirst

"Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.' " John 7:37

❖ No thirst, no seeking water, no root system

"Some fell on rock & as soon as it sprang up it withered away because it lacked moisture." Luke 8:6

A good example

*Acts 17:11 Now these Jews were more **noble** than those in Thessalonica; they **received the word** with all eagerness, **examining the Scriptures daily** to see if these things were so.*

Mark 4:24-25 Be diligent to understand the meaning behind everything you hear, for as you do, more understanding will be given to you. And according to the depth of your longing to understand, much more will be added to you. For those who listen with open hearts will receive more revelation, but those who don't listen with open hearts will lose what little they think they have. TPT

*Luke 6:48 He is like a man building a house, **who dug deep** and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it...*

3) PASS the test

❖ CONFLICT - Tribulation & persecution

Matt 13:21 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while.

*For when **tribulation or persecution arises** because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*

Conflict because of the Word

Heb. 10:32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.

They stumbled - Stumble = Skandalon – **offended**

*Mark 4:17 And they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while; then when trouble or persecution arises **because of the Word**, they immediately are offended (**become displeased, indignant, resentful**) and they stumble and fall away. AMP*

Matt. 13:21 he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey MSG

Offense left in the heart becomes a ROCK that hinders further revelation

♥ **Conflict = irritation and friction** → **PEARL** If pass test → pearl of great price Great revelations.

4) PROTECT your heart

*Prov. 4:20-23 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; **Keep them** in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.***

❖ COMFORT

Comfort more dangerous than tribulation/persecution → it affects you without you realizing it ► **frog**

King David did not fall during the time of war, but in his time of prosperity.

Thorny soil – a heart that got distracted then deceived

Mark 4:7, 18-19 some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. Now these are the ones sown among thorns;

- ❖ Thorns = cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, pleasures of life, desires for other things.
- ❖ Got distracted, then affections diverted, priority shifted from God to money, things, pleasure.

It is not wrong to have riches and to enjoy life, but it cannot be our priority.

1 Tim. 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

Example – King Solomon started with a good heart... but did not protect it... result... Ecclesiastes

♥ **This is the key to the true HIDDEN TREASURE**

Matt. 6:33 Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...

5) PURSUE the highest potential

Good soil – Noble & good heart

*Matt. 13:23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and **understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

*Mark 4:20 "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, **accept it**, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

Luke 8:15 "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it** and bear fruit with patience (endurance)."

- ❖ Hear and **understand** the Word - Revelation
- ❖ Hear and **accept** the Word – **Accept** (*paradechomai*) to receive and make it your own.
- ❖ Hear & **keep** the Word – **Keep** (*Katecho*) hold it fast, possess it, protect it, tend to it.

God wants to enlarge our heart and our capacity to receive revelations

1 Kings 4:29 And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and **largeness of heart** like the sand on the seashore.

- ❖ Honor

Luke 8:16-18 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. 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."

You will ATTRACT and increase what you HONOR

HAS = Echo Grk – to regard & honor, to cling to, to be closely joined to, to hold firm.

CONTRAST - Honor the Word ≠ Trample the Word

Luke 8:5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it."

- ❖ It is a gradual process 30, 60, 100

Mark 4:26-28 The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: **first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.**

- ❖ Do not despise small revelation

Mark 4:31-32 "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is **smaller** than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, **it grows up and becomes greater** than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

- ❖ Be Patient

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit **with patience** (endurance).