

Uncover My Ears! I Can't Breathe!

"Take heed therefore how ye hear" (Luke 8:18).

Alethea and Angela, my two older girls, responded differently while traveling. Alethea often slept, but Angela would hum or sing. On one occasion, to keep her from hearing all the conversation, her mother had Angela lay her head in her lap and covered her ear with her hand. Indicating that she was smothering, Angela pushed her momma's hand away and said, "Uncover my ears! I can't breathe!"

Over the years we've had a lot of fun with that statement. We know that, while she may have had a little difficulty breathing, the real issue was that Angela wanted to know what was being said. Of course, everyone is aware that we don't breathe through our ears; we breathe through our nose and mouth. Allow me the liberty, however, to use Angela's words as a springboard for these thoughts about hearing.

Years ago, Thomas Watson wrote, "It was by the ear, by our first parents listening to the serpent, that we lost paradise; and it is by the ear, by the hearing of the Word, that we get heaven." Throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus constantly addressed His followers on the subject of hearing. But nothing is said that indicates the vital significance of hearing more than the words of the Lord Jesus in our selected text.

How we hear the Word calculates into our comprehension of truth! Jesus' words, "Take heed therefore how ye hear," were given after He was asked by His disciples to explain the parable of the sower and the seed. If we are hearing well, we will not miss what the Lord is saying or misunderstand His teachings. May we pray that we may not be "dull of hearing" (Heb. 5:11), or fail to comprehend divine truth!

How we hear the Word contributes to the reality of faith in our lives! The entire text reads: "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." If we hear what the Lord is saying, faith will be encouraged and promoted. Paul declared, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

How we hear the Word affects our progress in the spiritual journey! This lesson was taught by our Lord in the early stages of His earthly ministry. How the disciples responded to this truth would impact their entire pilgrimage with Jesus. It would also influence their lives and ministries after Christ returned to the Father. May we also realize the bigness of hearing His instructions. Let's uncover our ears that we may breathe the air of heaven!