

Intro:

READ WLC 160.

Main Point of Text: Jesus calls you to be good listeners to His Good Word now being cast out, so that it grows eternal life in you and you don't wither before Harvest. If you are good listeners, it will be seen in your life's good produce, which stems from your good reception of its seed, which is rooted in your heart being good ground.

Sermon Point: *Be Good Listeners.*

Move 1: Listen closely to the Triune God Who is speaking to you at this very moment.

LC: "... receive the truth ... as the word of God":

- Luke 8:11: the seed is the Word of God. No better seed can be acquired/planted. No better fruit.
- Sown by "preaching": Vs. 1, (Greek: proclaiming, public announcing). Vs. 4: Jesus "spoke".
- Revelation 21:5/22:6: these words/sayings are true and faithful. Revelation 1:3: you are blessed if you read/hear/keep them.
- *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.* (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

Move 2: Listen carefully while Jesus preaches to you.

LC: "that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer": Listening is active:

- See earlier WLC 117 and 121 on preparing for Sabbath worship.
- Luke 19:47-48: Chief priests couldn't stop Jesus ... *for all the people were very attentive to hear him.*
- Eph. 6:18-19: Paul asks them to pray for him to open his mouth boldly to make known the Gospel.
- Ps. 119:18; Proverb 8:34.

Move 3: Listen like you care about what Jesus is saying to you.

LC "receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind":

- ... *the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.* (Heb. 4:2)
- ... *them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.* (2 Thess. 2:10)
- ... *receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.* (James 1:21)
- Isa. 66:1-2, 5.
- Acts 17:11: Noble Bereans received Word with "all readiness of mind": facilitated next part.

Move 4: Take what you hear Jesus preach to you, and carry it with you to consider further.

LC: “examine what they hear by the scriptures”: Acts 17:11: searched scriptures daily to test.

LC: “meditate [think on, consider], and confer [communicate with others] of it”:

- Luke 9:44: *Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.*
- Luke 24:14: *And they talked together of all these things which had happened. (Then Christ joined).*
- Malachi 3:16: *... they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*

Move 5: Hold on to Christ’s Word preached and live it.

LC: “hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives”: Luke 8:1-18:

- Vss. 1, 8: as the farmer casts his seed all over, so Jesus preaches His Gospel to all in earshot.
- Emphasis: warning to truly hear: Vss. 8, 15, 18. (Says seven times in Revelation letters).
- Mt. 17:5, Mt. of Transfiguration: “This is my beloved Son ... hear ye him.” 2 Pet. 1:16-19, reviews and says ... *ye do well that ye take heed ...*
- Those truly listening bear fruit, look like the women in Vss. 2-3. Those w/o fruit aren’t listening.
- Vs. 18: those who “seemeth to have” but hide they don’t will be made manifest (vss. 16-17); will lose all. No neutral ground.
- First 3 “plots” (vss. 5-7/12-13) bad hearts, bad hearing, no life. *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.* (Hosea 10:12; see also Jer. 4:3-4). Not pastor’s job, but the people’s.
- Vss. 4, 9-15, Jesus speaks in parables (symbols, illustrations, types, figures). Quoting Isaiah 6:9, He says parables are to blind/deafen those not prepared to listen. But He will water them in the hearts of those who drink like disciples: vs. 9. Good listening asks questions at proper time to understand.
- Key: Vss. 8/15. Good hearing holds fast/patiently bears fruit because grounded in a good heart.

Conclusion:

In Psalm 116:1-2 and 118:21, David loves/praises God because God listens to him. Love is listening. Show you love your Husband, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He preaches to you. Have good, loving hearts.

Be Good Listeners.