

093 - I Beg You to Listen to Me Patiently 2013-11-17

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:11

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 44:1-8

Sermon: "I Beg You to Listen to Me Patiently" Acts 25:23 - 26:3

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

"I beg you patiently to listen to me, as I say what the prophets and Moses said, that Christ would suffer and rise from the dead, which is speech true and reasonable, that you may be a Christian as I am."

Act 25:23-26:3 So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in. (24) And Festus said: "King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer. (25) But when I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death, and that he himself had appealed to Augustus, I decided to send him. (26) I have nothing certain to write to my lord concerning him. Therefore I have brought him out before you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the examination has taken place I may have something to write. (27) For it seems to me unreasonable to send a prisoner and not to specify the charges against him." (26:1) Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: (2) "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, (3) especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.

I. The Apostle of Jesus Christ Has Something to Beg of Us

A. He asks us --- "There is a certain thing I want you to do, won't you please do this one thing?"

B. He doesn't merely ask, he begs, he beseeches, he implores us

C. This is the spokesman for Jesus Christ that Jesus appointed to be his spokesman. He specifically sent him to people like us, who are not Jews by birth. This man Paul pleads with us not on his own, but as the voice of Jesus Christ begging us. So it really is Christ who is asking us.

D. Are you inclined to do what the Lord Jesus asks of you?

1. He is God in the flesh

-if you were walking along one day, and a thunderous voice spoke your name, and said, "I, the God of all the universe have something I want you to do" would you be inclined to do it?

2. He is the One who made you

3. He is the most loving man ever to live, the very embodiment of the love of God

toward sinners

4. He is the best man ever to live; the highest in every virtue

-if the best man you know begged something of you, would you be inclined to do it for him?

5. He is the King over all kings, the Lord over all lords

-if you were living in the late 1700s, and George Washington asked you to do something, would you be inclined to do it?

-if you were living in the mid 1800s, and Sam Houston asked something of you, would you be inclined to do it?

-how much more, then, the King of Kings?

E. Are you inclined to do what Paul begs of you?

1. for the sake of saving your soul, he gave up all the power and standing he had in his former way of life

2. for the sake of saving your soul, he walked thousands of miles, endured hunger, thirst, cold and other kinds of deprivation, was shipwrecked, and bitten by a poisonous snake

3. for the sake of saving your soul, he endured long imprisonment, several severe beatings and whippings, and was even stoned

4. this man Paul did all of this in obedience to Christ, to bring you the message that can save your soul from hell

5. Do you think you would be inclined to do something that this man Paul is begging you to do?

F. APPLICATION: Let us then be firm in our resolve that what the apostle Paul asks us, asking us forcefully, as the spokesman for Jesus Christ, we will do

II. The Apostle of Jesus Christ Begs Us to Listen Patiently

A. to listen

1. instead of not even hearing at all

2. instead of hearing without listening

3. instead of watching, smelling, feeling, or tasting

-words, not anything else

4. instead of imagining or inventing

5. instead of doing something else

6. give your attention to what I am saying

B. to listen patiently

1. to listen with a long putting down of the passions of the flesh

2. to listen as someone doing a task that takes a long time

3. to listen as someone doing work that requires great attention to detail

4. to listen as someone who is straining himself for a long stretch

C. APPLICATION

1. let us not think of listening as not doing anything

2. let us not think of listening as merely passive

3. let us not think of listening as something relaxing

III. The Apostle of Jesus Christ Begs Us to Listen Patiently to Him

A. listen to him playing music? no, listen to him speaking, in words

D. He begs us to listen to him

1. of course to listen to Paul is not really to listen just to the words of one man
2. Paul is just one of many; there are others---John, Peter, other men of the new testament
3. Paul and these others are saying the same message that was in the Old Testament
4. They are speaking and writing the word of God by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

E. To listen to him instead of listening to other things

- not to the newscaster
- not to celebrities
- not to our friends
- not to our heart
- not something inside of us
- not to men's invented improvements to Paul

F. How do we listen to Paul?

1. the reading of the bible
 - a. publicly
 - b. privately
2. these preaching and teaching sessions of your church
3. other sermons given in our time or in the past explaining the word
4. books and articles written explaining the word
5. meditating on the scriptures
6. discussing the scriptures with other Christians

to Jew and Gentile
to those who know the bible and those who do not

Examples:

- “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus
- “Faith comes by hearing.”

Goal / Results

- “for the perfecting of the saints”

“to me”

- listen to Paul, to John, to Peter, to James, to Jude
- do not listen to the world
 - of course there are many things the world says that are true
 - e.g. the world says that you find the circumference of a circle by $\pi \times r^2$
 - but don't listen to what the world says is true as to spiritual matters, as to heaven, as to salvation
 - don't listen to what the world says as to right and wrong
 - alot of the world dresses up in religious garb!
- listen to how the put things; how they assemble truth into the Christian system is part of how the church is the pillar of the truth
 - right and wrong is put in terms of law

Gill:

An almost Christian is one that has much light and knowledge, but no grace; he may know something of himself and of sin, of its being a violation of the law of God, and of the bad consequences of it, but has not true repentance for it; he may know much of Christ in a speculative way, concerning his person and offices, as the devils themselves do, and of the good things which come by him, as peace, pardon, righteousness, and salvation; but has no application of these things to himself; he may have a large notional knowledge of the doctrines of the Gospel, but has no experience of the power, sweetness, and comfort of them in his own soul; all his knowledge is unsanctified, and without practice: he is one that has a taste of divine things, but has not the truth of them; he may taste of the heavenly gift, of the good word of God, and of the powers of the world

to come; yet it is but a taste, a superficial one, which he has; he does not savour and relish these things, nor is he nourished by them: he has a great deal of faith in the historical way, and sometimes a bold confidence and assurance of everlasting happiness; but has not faith of the right kind, which is spiritual and special, which is the faith of God's elect, the gift of God, and the operation of his Spirit; by which the soul beholds the glory, fulness, and suitableness of Christ, under a sense of need, and goes forth to him, renouncing everything of self, and lays hold upon him, and trusts in him for salvation; and which works by love to Christ and his people, and has with it the fruits of righteousness: he may express a great deal of flashy affectation to the word, and the ministers of it, for a while, but has nothing solid and substantial in him; he may partake of the Holy Ghost, of his gifts largely, but not of special and internal grace; and indeed he can only be an almost Christian, that becomes one merely through the persuasion of men: it is one part of the Gospel ministry to persuade men, but this of itself is ineffectual; a real Christian is made so by the power of divine grace. Agrippa was only persuaded, and but almost persuaded by the apostle to be a Christian, but not by the Lord, nor altogether,

1. "I Beg You to Listen to Me Patiently" - centered on 26:3 - how loving and gracious God is to speak to us, how valuable the words of the Lord are, and how important it is that we listen, and listen patiently
2. "As I say what the prophets and Moses said---that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead"
3. "Which Are Words Both True and Rational" - centered on 26:25 - which I guess is self-explanatory
 - to the greeks it seems like foolishness
 - John 10 same word is said of Jesus
4. "Not Almost But Altogether a Christian" - centered on 26:29