

Series: Senses
HEARING
HEARING: SELECTIVE LISTENING

One of Jesus' best known parables is about listening! Luke 8:4-15

Luke 8:8 "Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand!"

I. Listening makes a huge difference.

The parable talks about life as a garden where things grow. Everyone's gardens produce something, if only weeds.

- A. Indiscriminate listening creates an indiscriminate life.
 - 1. Those who listen to Satan *Luke 8:12*
 - 2. Those who forget what God has said *Luke 8:13*
 - 3. Those who lose touch with God's voice because they listen to other voices *Luke 8:14*

- B. Careful listening brings value and success to life.

Luke 8:8

But the good soil represents honest, good-hearted people who hear God's message, cling to it, and steadily produce a huge harvest.

Listen, retain, produce.

II. We must choose our listening attitudes (the soil in our garden).

We adversely affect soil conditions by...

- A. Screening
 - 1. Preconceived ideas or concepts *Luke 15:1-2*
 - 2. Ignoring messages until immunized. *Luke 16:27-31*

- B. Assigning importance to sources of input
 - 1. Some we listen to. Others we screen out.
 - 2. As relationships change, we tune people in and out.

III. We must choose our listening diet.

- A. Prioritize your listening intake.
 - 1. Not everything / everyone has equal value.
 - 2. We cannot listen to everything or everyone.

How can we prepare our minds to be the fertile soil Jesus talks about in Luke 8:15?

- B. Choose what's most valuable.
 - 1. God's message is always most important. *Philippians 4:8*
 - 2. Stop listening to destructive messages.

- Whose ideas are most important to you?
- If you could visit with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?
- Have we marginalized the Scriptures with views from the entertainment or financial worlds?