

speaking to God's people

# freegiftfromgod

bible studies

Subject: **Listen to me**

## Scripture

Introduction

## Commentary

The title of this study is "Listen to me." Now I'm not saying you should listen to "me" but rather what the Bible says about listening to God and more especially listening to Jesus. If you look at Genesis 1 you see that all of the creation began when words were spoken, like, "Let there be light" and there was light.

We see also in John 1 that "The Word" who is revealed as being Jesus Christ spoke these words that began the creation. Jesus spoke the words that began everything, so it makes sense that if we were going to listen to ANYONE it probably should be our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

So when Jesus says to "listen to me" and when the disciples wrote about the need to listen to the words of Jesus, and when even the Father spoke to men saying we should "Listen to him," then it would only be a fool who chose to do otherwise.

I know you are no fool because you are choosing to listen to the words of Jesus.

<p>Acts 3:22</p>	<p>Let's look at a few scriptures pointing to why we should listen to Jesus. In this verse we see the following, which were the words quoted by Moses.</p> <p><i>Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet from your brethren as he raised me up. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'</i></p> <p>Now Moses was called the servant of God. All of the Jews from the time of Moses revered him greatly for he spoke to God and stood before him forty days in the wilderness when he was given the Ten Commandments.</p> <p>Yet the Jews did not listen to Jesus even though this great man of God Moses told them that they should listen to Him. Now I don't know who you are reading this, whether Jew or Gentile, but the message from Moses to the Jews was to, listen to the prophet who was to come, and Jesus is that prophet.</p>
<p>Matthew 17:5</p>	<p>I mentioned above that God the Father also spoke to men telling them to listen to Jesus. This is the scripture in question and it says:</p> <p><i>He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."</i></p> <p>This occurred at the time of the transfiguration where Moses and Elijah appeared speaking to Jesus of what was to come. The disciples Peter, James and John were with Jesus and were greatly astonished at this. Peter offered to make three booths for Moses, Elijah and Jesus and it was at that point that the Father intervened with the words above. The disciples fell to the ground on hearing the Father speak and when they looked up only Jesus was left with them.</p> <p>Now this is a very important point. Moses gave the Jews the law. Elijah was the greatest of the prophets for he did not die but the lord God took him to heaven. So these two men represented the law and the prophets. Jesus was bringing into being the New Covenant. So here we see these three groups represented, the law, the prophets and the New Covenant in the persons of Moses, Elijah and Jesus respectively.</p>

	<p>Peter in his confusion and astonishment was according all three as being equal. He wanted to build booths for all three. But God the Father showed they were not equal. He showed categorically that they were to listen to Jesus. Not only that, but when the disciples arose, Jesus was there alone, which adds more emphasis showing they were to listen only to him.</p> <p>We know from other teachings that the law and the prophets have passed away and are becoming obsolete for anyone who enters into the New Covenant. Anyone who does not enter the New Covenant though is still bound to keep the law for they are still under the power of sin. Jesus takes away sin, and this is achieved through baptism. (I will not go deeply into this here, but if you want more insight into how this works I recommend you either take my free eCourse, <a href="#">Nine Steps to Become a Christian</a> or alternatively check out my free eBook, <a href="#">The Foundation Teachings of Christianity</a>. Either of these will explain this in greater detail).</p> <p>So suffice it to say, if the patriarch Moses and the God the Father have seen fit to tell us to listen to Jesus...then we had better listen up good!</p>
Luke 10:38-42	<p>Jesus travelled all over the region of Judea and Galilee preaching the word, and often he taught in small groups to his disciples. Such a situation occurred when he went to the home of Martha and Mary. This is what occurred.</p> <p><i>38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house.</i></p> <p><i>39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.</i></p> <p><i>40 But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."</i></p> <p><i>41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things;</i></p> <p><i>42 one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."</i></p> <p>What was the "good portion" that Mary chose? It was to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him teach. If you had the opportunity today, would you do the same? Or would you be like Martha, running around ensuring all</p>

the guests had a cup of tea or coffee, that the place was tidy, that there were cakes, cookies or biscuits to feed the hungry disciples and so on? Martha was fussing with good works, but was missing out on what was really important: listening to the words of the Lord.

And we do it today too. How often have you been to church meetings and had your mind on other things? Come on now...we all do it! How many of you have fallen asleep in the meeting as the speaker drones on? I know I have done it. In fact I remember many years ago Robert Schuller from the Crystal Cathedral say that some of the best and most restful sleep he ever had was in church on Sundays!

It's easy to nod off during meetings, if you are not actively engaged. Even the Apostle Paul had a young man fall asleep while he was speaking, and fell out the window! (Acts 20:9-12)

For us though it is important that we listen to the message given by the pastors and teachers in the church. But it is even more important that we weigh up what they say to ensure the message is correct. Unlike Mary who had the Lord standing before her and knew that she was receiving the truth, today we need to assess everything we hear to ensure we are receiving the truth. It is unfortunate, but there is an awful lot of poor ministry, yes and even false doctrines taught in some churches that have no basis in scripture.

The Lord saw fit to ensure we had access to the words of God through the Bibles that have been preserved for us today. If we are to do as Mary did and to listen to the words of Jesus, it is important that we take in these words of the Bible, especially the New Covenant, given that it is the words of God from "The Word of God" himself.

Romans 10:17

Everybody wants to increase his or her faith, but how do you do it? Even the disciples pleaded with the Lord saying, "Increase our faith." (Luke 17:5) Well, given that we are talking about "Listening to the Lord" you might have guessed that this is how to increase your faith.

The Apostle Paul covered this matter in this scripture in Romans. He wrote:

*So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ.*

	<p>Note that faith comes from “what is heard,” that is, from listening. And not just listening to any old thing, but listening to the word of God through the preaching of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>When you listen and hear and take to heart what you hear, your knowledge increases and along with it, so too does your faith. A new Christian has little faith and could be easily swayed, but one who is mature, having learned through listening to Jesus and applying the word of God in their life will stand strong and firm against the attacks of the enemy.</p> <p>And again, its not just me saying this as you will see in the next scripture.</p>
Luke 8:15	<p>Most people are familiar with the parable of the sower. When the Lord explains this parable, which I will not go into in depth here, we see that all of these people heard the word of God. But other issues got in the way of three of those who heard and the word was unfruitful.</p> <p>The scripture concerning the fourth person or group is as follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.</i></p> <p>However we see that the fourth person or group heard the word and took it to heart. They did not just listen but they acted upon the word. They studied it and grew strong in it and they bore fruit in the word, that fruit being the fruits of righteousness and the fruits of the spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23.</p> <p>Their knowledge increased through what they heard and they grew stronger and more mature in that knowledge.</p>
Matthew 7:24-25	<p>Given the previous scripture you could argue that hearing the word is not enough, and you would be right. But unless a person hears the word they cannot even begin. Without hearing the word of God how can you learn and grow? How can you progress in your walk with Christ if you are not listening to him? And how can</p>

	<p>you have a relationship with Christ when you are not in conversation with him through prayer and listening to the word of God that is the words of the Bible? Quite frankly, you can't.</p> <p>Jesus showed us how important it is again to listen to the word, but not just to listen. He said if you are to be wise you must DO his words. You must act on the words and apply them to your life so that you can come to maturity in Jesus Christ. We see his teachings in this scripture.</p> <p><i>Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.</i></p> <p>The key to wisdom is to hear AND do the words of the Lord. That si how your foundations are made strong so that you can withstand the storms and torrents of this life. Trouble will come, but if you are founded on the rock that is Jesus Christ through listening to his word and applying it in your life, you will stand in the days of adversity.</p>
So what next?	<p>I have only touched on the need to listen to the word of God and especially the words of Jesus. There is much, much more that could be added. But I am doing these studies in the hope that you will gain some benefit, and that you will not leave it at what I have written.</p> <p>So now it's your turn. What would you like to add to this conversation? Send me an email (link below) or engage with me on Twitter (@JohnBLemmon) or on <a href="#">Facebook</a> and lets have the discussion continue. Feel free also to send this to others so they can join the conversation, as there is so much more I could add, but then that leaves nothing for you to say. I hope this has added value to your own walk with Christ.</p>

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