

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEARNER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #11 – A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO LISTEN

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL – A great many people would rather teach God than learn from Him. That is why this lesson is concerned with our call to listen. We begin with prayer.

THE PRAYER – Dear Lord, one of the first duties of love is to listen. One of the ways You show Your love to sinful humanity is by promising to hear us when we come to You. Truly, all of Scripture shows how eager You are to hear the words of Your faithful people. Now, we ask, dear Lord, that You will allow us to listen to You and Your will. We ask it in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

ILLUSTRATION - What kind of story ends up with the punch line: "Sir, there is nothing wrong with your hearing. You just don't listen." Pay attention and find out. Or, don't listen at all.

SATAN'S SUMMONS – Satan would like to summon all Christians to shut their ears to God's will and demand their own when the call to the Lord.

THOUGHT: In the Old and New Testaments, the Lord says we are to listen. Please, take a look at the two parables listed and see how.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 –

TEXT QUESTION	ANSWER
Matthew 7:24	What should a hearer do with God's words? _____
Matthew 7: 25	What is the advantage of hearing God? _____
Matthew 7: 26	What is the disadvantage to ignoring God? _____
	Building our lives on a solid foundation comes with what? _____
Matthew 13: 19	What is the problem in this verse? _____
	What is the comparison? _____
Matthew 13: 20	What problem is described in this verse? _____
	What is the comparison? _____
Matthew 13: 22	What problem is described here? _____
	What is the problem? _____
Matthew 13: 23	What are we to be like _____
	What is the result? _____
	Producing a life that glorifies the Lord begins with: _____

FIRST APPLICATION: When we talk about 'listening to God', we are not saying that we are to sit like bumps on a log. Listening is far more than just a passive hunk of inactivity. It calls for involvement and action. It is more than just "hearing" God. It means that we pay attention to God's words.

Like Mary, in Luke 2: 19, 51, we should do what? _____

To listen means that we also discern things. What do the Lord's sheep do when they hear the voice of the Shepherd in John 10: 27? _____

To listen also implies a relationship. Why do the sheep follow in John 10:3-4? _____

The book of James points out the foolishness and deception of thinking "passive listening" is the end of hearing the Lord. Look at chapter 1: 22-25 and see what it says:

v. 22 What is the danger of merely listening? _____

 What should happen as we listen? _____

v. 25 What is the result of looking at God's will and doing it? _____

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL - That we are blessed when we listen to the Lord is something that is pointed out in the Scripture passages which follow. Read the verses and provide the answers.

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TEXT QUESTION	ANSWER	
Exodus 6:9	Who did not listen? Why?	_____
Exodus 6:12	Who is Moses afraid won't listen? Why?	_____
Exodus 7:13	Who will not listen? Why?	_____
Leviticus 26:18	What happens to those who don't listen?	_____
Deut. 1: 43-44	Who didn't listen. What happened?	_____
Judges 2: 16-17	Who didn't listen? To Whom.	_____

In the New Testament as well, we are told to come to the Lord and listen.

Luke 10: 38	Who invited Jesus into their house?	_____
Luke 10: 39	What did Mary do?	_____
Luke 10: 40	What did Martha want?	_____
Luke 10: 42	How did Jesus feel about it?	_____

ILLUSTRATION AND THOUGHT - When he was discussing the Lord's Prayer, ("A Simple Way to Pray" (1535) in "Martin Luther--Later Years and Legacy," Christian History, no. 39), Martin Luther wrote the following: "The Holy Spirit Himself preaches here, and one word of His sermon is far better than a thousand of our prayers. Many times I have learned more from one prayer than I might have learned from much reading and speculation. It is of great importance that the heart be made ready and eager for prayer. What else is it but tempting God when your mouth babbles and the mind wanders to other thoughts? A good and attentive barber keeps his thoughts, attention, and eyes on the razor and hair and does not forget how far he has gotten with his shaving or cutting. If he wants to engage in too much conversation or let his mind wander or look somewhere else he is likely to cut his customer's mouth, nose, or even his throat. How much more does prayer call for concentration and singleness of heart!"

List some of the things that Luther said should happen as we listen to the Lord as we pray:

THE WAY OF PRAYER - As Christians, we know that our Heavenly Father hears us when we pray. We know that He, in His love, will listen and respond to us in a way that reflects His greater wisdom and deeper care. Now, in respect, we need to live our role as children and listen respectfully for His reply.

WE PRAY – Dear Lord Jesus, You said, 'he who has ears, let him hear.' You have given us ears. May we, dear Lord, in every moment and age; every trial and temptation; every success and sadness, listen for Your loving Words and direction. In Your Name. Amen.