

## Listen to Comprehend 4/07/2019 Sunday AM

### Introduction

- Last week we spoke about **Actions Speak Louder than Words**.
- When Judgment Day comes for every one of us, our actions are going to count a tremendous amount.
- How we treat the “least of these” is a direct reflection to how we treat Christ. Intentions may be good, but do our actions line up with our intentions?
- This morning we are going to discuss **Listen to Comprehend**.
- This title is a variation of something that I speak about in pre-marital counseling sessions. In those sessions we talk about “Expressing to be understood and listening to understand.”
- This morning I want us to think about this principle of listening so that we can understand, when it comes to the Word of God.
- The Bible tells us in **Romans 10:17**, “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”
- We may hear what is said, but do we comprehend it? Do we understand what is being said?

### Matthew 16:21-23

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" <sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

### Matthew 17:22-23

<sup>22</sup>When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. <sup>23</sup>They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief.

### Matthew 20:17-19

<sup>17</sup>Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, <sup>18</sup>"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup>and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

- These three passages are set before Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday which will be celebrated next week.
- Three separate times Jesus predicts his death to his disciples.
- In **Matthew 16:21**, we see he tells them that he must “suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”
- Not only did he predict his death, but also his resurrection 3 days later.
- In this passage we see Peter in **v.22**, “took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”
- Jesus responded quickly to Peter’s rebuke in **v.23** and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."
- This is the issue. Although Peter heard what Jesus said, he was not Listening to Comprehend. He had his mind of “the things of men” while Jesus was speaking of “the things of God.”
- You would have thought this exchange would have set Peter and the other disciples straight and they would have comprehended what Jesus was saying and have accepted that what he was saying was the truth.
- Jesus reiterated the same message to the disciple in **Matthew 17:22-23** and it says “they were filled with grief.”

- In **Matthew 20:17-19** Jesus gets even more specific with the disciples.
- Here he tells them in **vv. 18-19**, “<sup>18</sup>We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be **betrayed** to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup>and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and **flogged** and **crucified**. On the third day he will be raised to life!”
- In this passage Jesus is clear that he will be betrayed, be on trial and condemned to death, be turned over to “the Gentiles” to be mocked and flogged (Pilate), and then ultimately crucified.
- I do not see how he could have told them any clearer than that.
- He then ensured to remind that they “On the third day he will be raised to life!”
- Even though the disciples heard what Jesus was saying, it seems that it went into one ear and out the other.
- He was preparing his disciples for what was about to take place.
- However, when you read how the disciples reacted when these actual events began to unfold, they acted as if they had never heard any of this.
- The fact of the matter is that just like Peter in **Matthew 16:23**, they all did not “have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”
- They were hearing what Jesus was saying, however they were not listening to comprehend, they were just listening to hear what he was saying.
- They thought they had everything figured out.
  
- This is the same issue that is plaguing the church today.
- We have many people that seem to be “hearing the message of Christ” however they are not doing so in order to comprehend it fully and then to walk in that knowledge.
- Just as Jesus was clear with the disciples about what would happen to him, so too he has been clear about what will happen to us.
- Last Sunday’s message for instance could not have been more clear about how Jesus plainly requires that our actions sync up with our words.
- If we are looking to partake in eternity with Jesus, we must heed Jesus’ words in **John 15:8**, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
- **Matthew 7:13-14**, “<sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- **Matthew 7:21-23**, “<sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup>Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’
- **Matthew 7:24-27**, “<sup>24</sup>Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”
  
- Are you hearing the words of Jesus and putting them into practice? Or are you being like the disciples and simply hearing his words, but thinking about other things?
- When he returns, do you want to be as ill-prepared as his disciples were when he died, resurrected, and ascended?
- Listen to his Word so you can comprehend it and so you can put it into practice in your life.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

### Romans 11:11-24