

HEARING FROM GOD

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My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. (**James 1:19 NIV84**)

Four types of listeners (from Matthew 13) ...

I. THE _____-HEARTED LISTENER.

Along *Path*

MATTHEW 13:18-19 TLB "Now here is the explanation of the story I told about the farmer planting grain: 19 The hard path where some of the seeds fell represents the **heart** of a person who **hears** the Good News about the Kingdom and doesn't understand it; then Satan comes and snatches away the seeds from his **heart**."

JOHN 6:35-51

A. A hard heart is a _____ heart.

JOHN 6:52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Zechariah 7:11-12 NIV84 They made their **hearts** as **hard** as flint and would not **listen** to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by his Spirit...

B. Jesus gives the _____ to the hard hearted.

JOHN 6:53 NIV84 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

Is your heart _____ or proud?

II. THE _____-HEARTED LISTENER.

Among the *Rocks*

MATTHEW 13:20-21 NIV84 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who **hears** the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

A. A shallow heart is _____ by truth.

JOHN 6:60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a **hard teaching**. Who can accept it?"

B. Jesus _____ the shallow-hearted.

JOHN 6:61 NIV84 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

Will you _____ Jesus, even when life is hard?

III. THE _____-HEARTED LISTENER.

Within the *Thorns*

MATTHEW 13:22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who **hears** the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

A. A cluttered heart does not _____ the truth.

JOHN 6:64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

B. Jesus _____ the clutter hearted.

JOHN 6:65-66 NIV84 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." 66 From this time, many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him."

Are you _____ to give up everything & follow Jesus?

IV. THE _____-HEARTED LISTENER.

In *Good Soil*

MATTHEW 13:23 NIV84 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

A. A good heart _____ the truth.

JOHN 6:67-69 NIV84 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

B. Jesus _____ the good hearted.

JOHN 6:70a NIV84 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not **chosen** you, the Twelve?"

Have you been _____ by Jesus?

V. HOW TO DEVELOP A _____/LISTENING HEART.

EZEKIEL 11:19-20 NIV I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their **heart of stone** and give them a **heart of flesh**."

1. Be _____ before God.

1 CHRONICLES 22:19 NIV84 **Devote** your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God.

Jeremiah 29:13 NIV84 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

2. Be _____ before God.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14 NIV84

3. Be _____ before God.

1 KINGS 19:12 NIV84 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a **gentle whisper**."

4. Be _____ before the God.

Deuteronomy 32:46-47 NIV84