**Week 11: He who has an ear, let him hear**

1. INTRO: The Lord has offered to the whole human race to be **rich toward God**~ very few take up His offer.
2. The invitation Jesus repeated the most in His earthly ministry was to call to have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. This is written 16x (8x in the Gospels and 8x in Revelation). “*He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”*
3. Matthew 11:15; 13:9,43; Mark 4:9,23; Luke 8:8; 14:35
4. Revelation 2:7, 11, 17,29; Revelation 3:6, 13, 22; Revelation 13:9
5. Five key points to be made about this recurring invitation from Jesus
6. Point 1: **The TRUTH being proclaimed was extremely important to Jesus**
7. When Jesus is highlighting to have ears to hear a certain Truth…..that signals that our ears are probably dull and have to be “turned on” to really hear what is being said.
8. Jesus is saying “Pay attention”
9. The Kingdom of God is a “hearing” Kingdom. We are to set ourselves before the Spirit/Voice of God
10. Hearing=to attend to; to hearken; to lean into; to consider what is being said; to perceive
11. Point 2: **Jesus is saying “there is more than what is obvious”**
12. He is calling us to pursue the deeper Truth that is set before us
13. Don’t be content to read it for face value, but be willing to dig for treasure in it
14. Example: As we examined the precious stones last week ~ looking at emerald; sardius; jasper, etc…those gems that are in the Holy City and those that will be used to prepare our eternal dwelling places~ we had an initial picture:
15. I showed the pictures on powerpoint
16. Then someone mentioned how the various colors could mean something~ setting mood/emotions/royalty/etc.
17. Then someone talked about the gems representing different facets of God’s character and how we will reflect that character quality of Him in our dwellings/garments/etc.
18. As I was preparing this teaching, I was thinking about the emotions connected to the various stones~ they, in themselves could represent a nature of God: Emerald=knowledge of God; Sapphire=righteousness
19. Point 3: **It takes the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit to grasp what Jesus is saying**
20. We cannot “hear” with our flesh ears~ it is beyond our natural
21. Jesus wants us to ask the Holy Spirit for help
22. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that Jesus rewards those who earnestly seek Him out
23. Point 4: **Jesus wants us to be motivated by eternal rewards which are connected to our destiny**
24. Jesus loves when we ask Him to “Show me more Lord about this reward”
25. These rewards are not of secondary importance, but are an important part of our destiny
26. Jesus wants us to be anchored in eternity!
27. Point 5: **It takes a focused determination to lay hold of the Truths being referred to**
28. We don’t automatically respond to them in a deep and impactful way to our lives
29. We need to commit to study and engage our hearts to know these Truths
30. **We are responsible for the response of our heart to the Lord** (He is always looking at the heart), not the amount of influence we have on this earth~
31. “*Peter asks the question, ‘What do we get for leaving everything to follow You?’ Jesus responds,’…in the re-creation of the world, when the Son of Man will rule gloriously, you who have followed Me will also rule, starting with the 12 tribes of Israel. And not only you, but anyone who sacrifices home, family, fields—whatever—because of Me will get it back a hundred times over, not to mention the considerable bonus of eternal life. This great-reversal: many of the first ending up last and the last ending up first,”* Matthew 19:28-39
32. Following Jesus ~ overcoming compromise; faithfulness to Jesus; being “lovesick” for Jesus; obedience; abiding; allegiance to His Kingdom and Rule
33. The exchange rate is incredible~ we are faithful in small things and we get back 30, 60, 100 times over
34. Our feeble movements of our heart are esteemed and remembered by God
35. No one else may notice but God sees it all
36. People usually esteem those things that draw attention to oneself, or those things that bring about comfort, but God esteems those hidden things we do
37. “*For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done*,” Matthew 16:27
38. “*Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done*,” Revelation 22:12
39. **We can lose the things that we’ve worked for and lose our rewards**
40. “*Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully*,” 2 John 8
41. Pay attention to what is going on in your heart
42. Be aware of 3 giants that will try to steal our rewards, faithfulness and allegiance to Jesus (connected to the Parable of the Sower~ Matthew 13 & Mark 4 & Luke8
43. **Mundaneness and routine of life**: This can cause our hearts to settle and compromise and becoming apathetic (most of life is routine and mundane)
44. **STAY STEADY** through the years! Keep your spirit stirred up! Keep the eternal rewards before you. Remind yourself that Jesus sees it all. He doesn’t miss a thing!

* Staying in relationship with Jesus (Abiding); don’t choose rules over relationship ~ that can cause a dullness in the relationship with Jesus; it’s easier to follow the rules than the Voice of God.

1. **Trials and difficulty of life**: This can cause our hearts to shrink back. Jesus says to his followers, “*Blessed is the man who is not offended by me,”* Matthew 11:6. Our hearts are easily offended.
2. **STAY FOCUSED** through the years! Choose to be unoffended by Jesus.

* Make a decision before the trials come to: #1~ Respond to Jesus with “To who else would we go?” and #2~ say, “I will not be offended by You Jesus” and #3 ~ say, “If I don’t quit, I win”!
* Know that this life is but a vapor…..
* “*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because he when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him*,” James 1:12

1. **Temptation and pleasures of life**: The attractions of the world cause our hearts to grow dull; hearts are captured by the temporary
2. **STAY ANCHORED** through the years in eternity!

* I Timothy 6 is the charge to Timothy from Paul to watch out for the riches of this kingdom.
* I Timothy 6: 6-10 (Paul’s warning)
* I Timothy 6:11, *“BUT YOU, man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.”*
* I Timothy 6: 17-19

1. “*But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who* ***HEAR*** *the Word,* ***RETAIN*** *it, and by* ***PERSEVERING*** *produce a good crop,”* Luke 8:15

Mike Bickle, “God desires that we seek Him with spiritual violence and be utterly abandoned to Him. He is loved and honored when His people seek Him with a spiritual fervor, laying aside everything that gets in the way of obeying and loving Him with all their heart,”