

Stewarding God's Word (PT. 3)

HEEDING "Take heed what you hear..." Mark 4:24

Mark 4:23-25 (NKJV) *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. ²⁴ Then He said to them, "Take **heed** what you hear."*

1. Jesus says, "Take **HEED** what you hear." Think of the story of Jonah.
 - a. God first spoke to Jonah with a word. But Jonah didn't listen to God's voice so then God speaks to him a second time through circumstances.
2. Remember what Jesus is saying in our two passages for today. "Be careful **WHAT** you hear." "Be careful **HOW** you hear" and "Take **HEED** what you hear."
3. These verses also tell us "Whatever measure you use so it will be measured back to you." If you look at that as it is used all through the concept of stewardship, it is saying *if you will be faithful in little things, God will give you big things*. Many of us want to hear big things but we have not listened humbly and heeded the little things.
4. Listen, if God speaks to you little things and you are **attentive**, and you **humble** yourself and **heed** these little words, then God looks at you and says, there is a faithful, humble servant whom I can trust with big things.
5. God calls on you to treasure his Word. He wants you to put your faith in his word, in what he has said and done. Humble yourself and act accordingly. Take heed **what** you hear, **how** you hear, **humble** yourself and **obey** his Word. If you will become a good steward of God's Word, God will give you greater grace than you have ever known.

John 1:14-17 (NKJV) *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth... ¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.*

6. God's **truth** without **grace** is only half true!
 - a. Be attentive to God; Humble yourself before Him and live in believing obedience.

Stewarding God's Word Conclusion

1. Stewarding God's Word is a journey of faith. The teaching of Jesus concerning the Father's Word calls us to a position of faith—we are to **truly believe that God, our Father, speaks to us through his Word.**

2. **We are not called to merely read the text, we are called to listen for his voice.** The primary purpose of a *word* is communication. By his nature, God is a communicating Being:

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

3. Stewarding God's Word is a high and holy calling. Properly stewarding God's Word will:
- a. **Stoke the fires of our intimacy with God.** God's Word is given not merely to teach us about God but to lead us to Him.
 - b. Stir up ***faith*** *THAT He speaks*
 - c. Cultivate ***humility*** *toward WHAT he speaks*
 - d. Call us to live in ***believing obedience*** *to ALL he speaks*

Cleansing vs. Repentance

1 John 1:7-9 (NASB) *...but **if** we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son **cleanses us** from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.*

Cleansing

1 John 1:7... IF we walk in the light...the blood of Jesus His Son **CLEANSSES** us from all sin.

(v. 9) *If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.*

++ Don't miss God's **ifs**! Some of God's promises are **conditional**.

++ Confession of our sins is like taking a daily shower. Regular cleansing is vital. And God promises that his "**mercies** that are new every morning..."

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB) *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith....***

++ This is a picture of **direction**, not merely of *confession* and cleansing. **correction**. Repentance requires a change of direction. Repentance = conviction + confession + a change in direction. To change tomorrow we must disrupt today.

++ Compared to **confession** you might say **repentance** is deeper, more thorough going, and longer lasting. Repentance requires confronting what we don't want to be or do and embracing a change of direction. Like confession, repentance is relational. Confession is about correction and cleansing. While repentance passes through confession, it continues to call and empower us to a deeper walk with God. Jesus authors and finishes our faith (v.2). Repentance is ongoing, deep, and powerfully relational. Repentance is not just cleansing us from our sins; it is cultivating a more personal and intimate walk with God.