

## Listen To Him!

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*Father, we just thank You, Lord. We just thank You for today. We just thank You for giving us one more day in the land of the living. Thank You, Father, for this gift. It's not a gift many had, Lord. O Father, help us never ever to take time and the days You give us lightly because we have been enjoying by Your Word to number our days. I thank You for everyone who is here. In spite of the rain, Father, they made it. And we are here in Your house and Father, I pray, You continue to teach us. There is only one teacher – You, Lord. Spirit of God, teach us. Through Your vessels, teach us. Help us to understand what You are telling us. Help us to apply it in our day-to-day lives so that our lives are built on the rock. Storms are coming, have come, so many hearts of the world, lives are being shaken, nations are being shaken. Help us to be rooted in Your Word. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.*

If you were there on Sunday, I believe you were all there on Sunday; we go right back where we stopped on Sunday and pick up from where we stopped.

### Hebrews 11:6

**<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible...**

See, you know stuff which most people in the world do not know.

***...it is impossible to please God,***

Without faith, we cannot please God. So, don't say, "It is impossible. So, I am not going to try it." No! It is impossible to please God without faith. Which means – with faith, I can please God. And unlike pleasing man, it is imperative that we please God. Why? Because,

### 1 Corinthians 10:5

**<sup>5</sup>But with most of them** (That's the children of Israel who came out of Egypt the first generation) **God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.**

Like for us, what does it mean – scatter in the wilderness? Meaning – unfulfilled lives. They had such wonderful promises God gave them. He said, "I am taking you all out with a mighty hand; I will take you through; I am taking you to a land flowing with milk and honey; there will be sweetness in your life; there will be strength in your life." To them, material promises – "You will have houses." They lived in, I don't know; what chattel they lived in Egypt because they were slaves, "but you are going to have houses you didn't build, flocks and cattle and gold and silver and wells which you don't need to dig." So, look at the promises they had. None of those promises came to pass though it was promised by God.

***...for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.***

This is the truth about Christians too. Most, (I don't know, I cannot give you a number, but I believe) many Christians go through without fulfilling the promises of God in their lives. And it is like them, our lives, our bodies are scattered in the wilderness. We never reach to that Promised Land which is the promised life of Jesus Christ where He says, "*I have come to give you life and life in abundance.*" That is why it is imperative we please God and there is only one way we can please God; that is, by faith. Remember the wedding message, the Sunday message – we heard about the person, we heard about the prepared place, we heard about the provision, we heard about the purpose, and we heard about the walls, the fences, the boundaries God has set in every relationship. Everything we are called to do God has set boundaries and He says, "If you stay within the boundaries like Joseph did, you will flourish and will become a blessing to many."

So, you have to remember it was God who let them into the wilderness; therefore. they had provision, but they also had a purpose. The purpose of the wilderness was that. you know' we may turn there but you know it is in *Deuteronomy 8*. He leads them into the desert, caused them to hunger, fed them with manna so that they would know what is there in their heart. And they would get rid of it. That was the purpose; the wilderness had a purpose. God does not take you into the

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desert without a reason. He's not a malevolent, a nasty Father. He's an incredibly loving Father. So, whenever He disciplines His child, His children, whatever He does in the lives of His children is always done because He loves us. So, He leads them into the desert to clean out their hearts and their minds but that purpose was not fulfilled. So, if we do not fulfil the purpose of the wilderness in our lives; we are destined to wander in the wilderness and die in the wilderness. But that was not His ultimate destiny; the destiny was the Promised Land. Remember that. The key to everything. Why? We saw last Sunday, the key to everything was this

### **Romans 10:17**

***<sup>17</sup> Faith comes by hearing, and hearing from the Word of God.***

The whole thing was that. They did not mix what they heard with faith. Remember *Hebrews 4*? They did not mix it with faith. They heard but they didn't believe; they heard but they did not trust God; they heard but they did not obey what he said. So, remember – faith means you believe, you trust, you obey. They didn't do that. And it begins with this; this is the key. Okay, you came through the rain, you came through the traffic, but all that sacrifice, God says, "I do not want sacrifice; I want (what?) obedience." And how does obedience come? Obedience first comes from hearing. If I don't hear, I don't know what I have to obey. So, remember, even today, this evening, whenever you come to the house of God or whenever you read, listen or whatever; listening is the fundamental exercise which will change your life. Be careful. Question is: are we listening?

The last verse we read on Sunday was from,

### **Isaiah 59:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup>Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor His ear heavy that He cannot hear. <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated you from God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.***

This is the key. I want to hear from God. I want God to hear from me. That's called communication or prayer. When we talk to each other, we call it 'communication'. When we talk to God, we call it 'prayer'. I want God to hear me. I want to hear from God. But God says, "There's one thing that blocks; that's our sin." That's why we constantly go to the Word of God, deal with sin, repent, put it away; clarity comes, the line is clear, no longer busy, no signal that thing goes. We start hearing from God again. But the question is: do we hear what He says? So, that He hears what we say. Right? That's the fundamental thing about any relationship. In any relationship. there is mutual conversation, okay? The higher and the lower in every relationship. In every relationship, there is a higher and a lower, but democracy want to believe everybody is equal. It doesn't work like that in life. If we all are equal, then we all should be on the pulpit talking to an empty auditorium. No, it doesn't work like that. Somebody has to hear, somebody has to speak and after some time, you talk back. See, conversation is there. First, I have to hear from God. I cannot say, "God, You listen to me." No. God says, "You listen to Me." Because children always say, "father/dad, you listen to me." It's wrong; it's the other way. "You listen to Me, because I have something to give you which you don't even know, which you don't even have in your understanding." So, we need to hear first. Learn to listen.

The problem is that rarely do we actually listen, actually hear through life unless we practice. One of the famous Presidents of America, after the recession, his name was FDR. I mean, they called him FDR, Roosevelt. Roosevelt, these Presidents, and these Prime Ministers and all half their life is lost with functions. Every day, they have functions. In one of the functions was that they greet everybody who comes, and you say something, they say something back. He knows they are not listening. You know, imagine we all want to reach the top, but we don't realize what a waste of time it is. Half their time is gone in ceremonies and he used to be very upset with the waste of time. So, one day, he decided, "I will play a trick." So, this long line of dignitaries who are coming to meet him, he greets him, and he say something, and they say something back. To everybody. he said, "I killed my grandmother this morning." And one person would respond, "Marvellous, your honor." Meaning, they never heard what he said. They're always preparing the answer in the mind. "I am waiting to meet the President and when he shakes the hand, and whatever he says, I am going to say, "It's marvellous, your excellency!" Another one said, "Excellent, keep it up." I am reading you some of the responses. Another one said, "We are proud of you Mr. President." So, you realize here is the president speaking, nobody is actually listening. Finally, he came to the ambassador of Bolivia and he said, "I just killed my grandmother this morning." And he whispered back, "Maybe, your

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excellency, she had it coming.” So, only one person responded and the responded according to the person who is speaking to you.

You getting it? That’s our issue. Usually, there is no problem with our ears. We want to blame Sammy and the sound system for lack of faith but actually that’s not the problem. There is no problem with our ears; the problem is with our hearing. Either we refuse to grant meaning to the sounds or we refuse the meaning the sounds give. Another reason we don’t want to listen is because we know if we listen, we are answerable to what we listen. That’s why one of the first question, if not the second question God asks, after the fall of man is: who told you? In other words, whom did you listen to? Because whatever we do is a response to some voice we listen to.

Primarily, in the context of today’s message, we can, or I am dividing people into three groups. Because we all want to be successful. First group is who don’t hear or listen. Those who don’t hear or listen, result in their life – they won’t succeed. They won’t succeed in any field. If you want to be successful, you have to listen. If you haven’t heard, trained to listen, you will not succeed. Second group – those who hear but don’t understand. Those who hear but don’t understand also won’t succeed. It doesn’t matter how much you hear; if you don’t understand, you will not succeed. Then, the third group; I am giving a general principle in the world, okay? Those who hear and understand and produce results. Those who hear, they understand, they apply, almost always they succeed. Whether you are a successful thief, or a successful entrepreneur, it’s because you heard, you understood, and you applied. Thieves listen to better thieves. I’ll tell you a story so that you’ll understand.

You know what kanjoos mean, right? How do you say in English – miser? There is a story in Kerala about one kanjoos going to meet another kanjoos how to learn, how to be more miserly than you. So, in Kerala, we wear the dhoti- the mundu. So, he went, he has heard that the old man is a veteran when it comes to miserliness. So, he said, “I am a miser, but I want to learn some more tricks.” So, he went in the evening and the man came in and said, “I have come to learn some tricks from you.” He said, “Okay, come let us sit and talk.” So, when they were sitting and talking, the older man said why, “Let’s put off the light; why waste?” He said, “I learnt something new today”. The other fellow sitting, and they talked and talked and finally, after one hour, he said, “Okay now let me light the lamp.” And he said, “Wait a minute. Let me put my dhoti back. Because you said it was iron, since we are sitting in the dark, I folded it and sat on it.” So, he told the other man, “Arrey, you are far ahead of me.” So, in everything, you need to realize – if we don’t listen, if you listen and you understand you learn. That’s how success in the world is in any field if anybody has succeeded, it’s because they have heard, they have understood.

But God, for us, He doesn’t want us to succeed just temporarily; He wants us to succeed eternally. He’s interested in our eternal success. So, there are two kinds of successes – one is worldly which ends with death. Death is the end of it. The second one is eternal, where death actually is the beginning of a new phase of success. For the worldly successful, death is a dead end. It is finished; it’s gone. But for the eternally successful, death is just a door for greater opportunities. And God, for His children, want to be eternally successful. So, when we look in terms of our understanding, our worldly understanding, in success, we talk about two things – one is fame or glory; and second – expansion. When Reliance began, it was not Reliance, if I am right, the founder of Reliance began by selling scrap; you know, steel. Today, Reliance is there in almost everything. So, he’s considered incredibly successful because he has expanded. And he has got fame, the India’s richest man, living in a house which costs, three thousand crores, that is MCH’s entire budget. So, he’s considered in India the most successful man he has fame and he is expanding and he is still expanding. So, that’s considered success.

### **Daniel 12:2-3**

***<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.***

So, God is talking there about, in our terms, fame. There are some who are going to be unbelievably famous in eternity. They may not be known here but they will be known their glory; they will shine and everybody in the universe will realize that, “These are people with eternal glory.” They are really famous; God’s who is who, like David’s 30 mighty men. Who is who. So, this is glory,

**Corinthians 15:41-42**

***<sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.<sup>42</sup>So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.***

When God's children are raised in incorruption, we will not have same glory; we will differ in glory. Depending upon how much we heard, how much we understood, how much we obeyed, that will be glory revealed. So, we are running after same here; God said, "You can run after glory there, it's your choice." Everybody wants fame, God says, "I understand, I created you that way, but you can choose for a worldly glory which ends with death or you can choose an eternal glory that is forever and ever. Then, we admire Tata's and Birla's; you hardly hear them, but Reliance is expanding in every area, we want expansion. God says, "I want it for you." I want you to look at *Isaiah* so that you know that who just look for earthy glory and ends without redemption.

**Isaiah 5:14**

***<sup>14</sup>Therefore, Sheol has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure; Their glory and their multitude and their pomp, and he who is jubilant, shall descend into it.***

All these incredibly pompous people on earth with their glory and fame but if they did not know God, they will take all their pomp and glory into hell. So, hell is also expanding. Because hell was made for the angels but now, man is also going over there, countless. Hell is expanding. So, there is expansion everywhere. But this was never meant for us, but we choose, people choose. Now let's look at expansion in God's Kingdom.

**Matthew 25:21**

***<sup>21</sup>His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'***

You see, when you and I hear, we understand, we obey. Hear, understand, obey. We understand, what we call, a 'godly, Heavenly work culture.' We actually start enjoying work. The only thing we don't enjoy work so much is that, this body gets tired. We get weary, we get hungry, mentally, we get exhausted. But imagine a new body where there is no tiredness, a mind which doesn't know fatigue, wouldn't you want to work? The work that brings uncreditable joy, because every act of work will be appreciated by your Father in Heaven. So, there is expansion. In the next verse which I gave you, *verse 29. Matthew 25:29,*

**Matthew 25:29**

***<sup>29</sup>'For to everyone who has, more will be given, (why does he have? He has, because he heard, he understood, he obeyed so he has) and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.***

Understand that, our God is an uncreditable steward of resources. He doesn't waste. He is very careful about His investments; He has given us His Son; He has given us His Word; He has given us His Spirit and He says, "You know what? Give your time; nothing is coming." He starts withdrawing. The anointing that was in Saul, He lifted it up and He anointed David. He does, He is a good steward. Understand all these business principles, all this people are talking about – all are originated with God. He is a good businessman. He doesn't waste His resources. Not that He doesn't have unlimited resources, but that doesn't mean He will waste it. We will think we have so much; so, how does it matter? No, God doesn't think that way; He doesn't think that way; therefore, we need to learn to think His way. So, please remember, He wants us to be successful but to be successful, we need to understand His ways. This is how you and I evaluate true success. True success is evaluated that way because God has called us to eternal success. So, if you want to please God and be successful, then Jesus gives us the keys to success. And we know the very familiar parable; it's called the parable of the sower. Remember in the parable of the sower? Do we have to read the whole parable? We know it, right? In the parable of the sower, the seed was the same. The sower was the same, the only thing different was the ground. Persons mind or heart; only thing different, like today, the Word you are listening. Are you hearing different things? No. The sower is the same. It's only one person speaking but the ground is different; it's not the same. The only thing different is the ground. So, eternal formula, if you want math, for success is given in *Matthew 13:23,*

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**Matthew 13:23**

***<sup>23</sup> But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”***

First thing, he who hears; first thing, “Lord, give me hearing ears.” That’s why I said, when the high priest and the priest in the Old Testament, when they were dedicated, first thing done was that, the blood was put on their ear so that they would hear what God was saying. Hear.

Second, he understands. Hear, understand that alone is not enough, he bears fruit and produces. He needs to be productive. God doesn’t want arm-chair critics. He is not interested those who sit in the arm-chair and talk about World Cup football; He is interested in those players who are on the ground, risking their limbs, who hears, who understands and who produces thirty-fold, sixty-fold, hundred-fold. This is God’s formula for success – I have to hear, I have to understand, I have to produce. Remember God’s blessing. First blessing, what was that? Be fruitful and multiply. That is a blessing. How does that blessing come to pass? By hearing, understanding and obeying. That’s the only way this blessing will come to pass. A blessing in itself is of no value in my life if I don’t know how to apply that blessing in my life.

Okay? Hear, understand, produce. The more you hear, and the better you understand and the more you obey, the more you will produce. But you see where it all begins? It all begins with one thing – hearing, listening. That’s why in parenting, when we become grandparents, we know what parenting is. When we were parents, we did not know what parenting is; it was ‘trial and error.’ That’s why most of our children end up as error. Honestly, all of us are on the learning process, but when you come through this phase, by the time you actually know parenting, the children are grown up. But one of the first thing, that’s why we need to go to the Word of God and learn from the Parent, the Father in Heaven. The first thing, you have to teach children, however small they may be, is to listen and to obey. In the world, we do something else, ‘free will’. Let them choose – the worst thing you can do. You have to balance Scripture. If you don’t balance Scripture, we have very unbalanced opinion about ourselves. You know unbalanced opinion is this, “*I am fearfully and wonderfully made*”. Is it true? It is true, that’s one side; other side, no! Other side is, how are we conceived? In sin and shaped in iniquity. That’s how you are balance, fearfully and wonderfully made and I am conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity; then only, you have balance.

Otherwise, we don’t get balance. And, you need to realize, our children are fearfully and wonderfully made, and conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity. So, we need to be careful. First thing we need to teach them, is to listen. Listen to me; listen to the dad and listen to the mom; obey. We are not breaking their will; we are molding their way. The world will say, “You are breaking their will,” no. Molding their will to learn to obey greater and greater things. Ultimately, to hear and obey the voice of God. So, we have to learn first to obey. That’s the first discipline always.

One of Christ’s high point, during His ministry when He takes His three disciples and goes to the Mount of Transfiguration. Listen to what happens on that Mount of Transfiguration.

**Matthew 17:5**

***<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”***

First thing God says, “I love Him.” First thing God says about all of us, “I love you.” Second thing, He should say about us, “I am well pleased.” What does that mean? *Without faith, it is impossible to please God*. I love my son. I am pleased with my son. See, children always mistake that because a parent is not pleased with you, the parent doesn’t love you. No, God loves us, but God is not necessarily pleased with us. “This is My beloved Son, I love Him. In whom I am well pleased.” Then, He tells us, what is that? “Hear Him; listen to Him.” The Father has only one thing to tell us from Heaven, “Listen to My Son.” The *writer of Hebrews* will say in the ancient days, God spoke through different ways in prophets, in visions but in this last days, He has spoken to us through His Son, listen to Him. Listen to God, listen to Jesus, listen to what He says. Prophetically thousands of years early, Moses had said this to Israel. And basically, to us, all of us, He has said this in *Deuteronomy*,

**Deuteronomy 18:14**

***<sup>14</sup> For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.***

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Why is God driving out nations out of Canaan? Why is that, one day, nations will disperse out of inheritance, of all the nations of this world, will be Kingdom of Jesus Christ? Reason? Because they listen to soothsayers and diviners. We don't realize the fact of the matter is – all the leadership of the world is involved in occult. That's how they retain power; that's how is offered to Jesus, "You listen to me; I will give you the nation." He said, "No, I will listen to My Father alone." These nations are listening to soothsayers and diviners, occult.

### **Deuteronomy 18:14-15**

***<sup>14</sup>For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you. <sup>15</sup>"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,***

He is talking about Jesus. Look at the capitals. He is saying that from among you rising up a prophet, when He speaks listen to Him.

### **Deuteronomy 18:16-19**

***<sup>16</sup>according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' <sup>17</sup>"And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. <sup>19</sup>And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.***

He is talking about Jesus. He says, "He will come and He will speak what the Father has put in His heart, listen to Him." If you don't listen to Him, God will ask for an account. "Why didn't you listen to My Son?" Did you get it? Listen to Him; listen to the words of God. Don't get carried away by all that you hear in the world because behind what you hear in the world whether it is movie, fiction or music there is divination and soothsayers, there is occult behind it, be very careful what you listen to. Jesus will tell us in John 16:12-13

### **John 16:12-13**

***<sup>12</sup>"I still have many things to say to you, (see Jesus has so many things to say to us but He says) but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.***

So He says, I'm going and My Spirit will come and what is the primary thing that He will do? He will speak and when the Holy-Spirit speaks, He speaks what Jesus says and when Jesus spoke He was saying what the Father spoke. We are asked to listen to the Spirit now, the Spirit of Jesus Christ and when the Spirit speaks He will only speak about Jesus. When Jesus spoke He only spoke about the Father so we have to learn to listen. And usually for most people first our struggle is with listening not so much with understanding, it's with listening. We struggle to listen because if you listen and don't understand we can ask questions and if we don't ask questions, it's because we didn't listen; it's not because we didn't understand. Therefore, look at Jesus; learn from Him because He listened to the Father and He obeyed the Father. He was the most successful Man to walk on the earth and the success is shown in the Word.

### **Philippians 2:9**

***<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,***

He has a name above every other name. Why? Because He listened, He obeyed and He produced and He was this hundred-fold Son of God, Son of Man; the name above every other name. Jesus came and spoke to them saying in *Matthew 28*.

### **Matthew 28:18**

***<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.***

There is nobody more glorious than Him. So, He has fame, power, authority and His Kingdom without end because He applied His Father's principles in His life and He is saying just apply the same thing. When He was on earth, this is what He said about Himself.

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**John 8:28-29**

***<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. <sup>29</sup> And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”***

What is He trying to say? He says, “I’ve been listening to my Father always. Not only do I listen, I understand what He is saying. Not only do I understand, I obey what He says; therefore, I always please Him.: He says, “I listen, I obey and I please My Father.” He did exactly as He was told. That is why the disciples or even His own mother often could not understand the ways in which He was doing things because He was listening to His Father. See, when you are walking by faith, the people who are walking by sight with you, often, do not understand the decisions that you are taking because sight cannot understand faith while faith can understand sight. Because every man who walked by faith once walked by sight. So, even His disciples did not understand or His brothers nor His mother did not understand; everybody had suggestions for Him but He did not keep it. He only listened to His Father and He obeyed His Father.

**John 12:48-50**

***<sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.***

He says, “I did not speak on My own; I listened very carefully to My Father and spoke only what He had told.”

***<sup>50</sup> And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”***

If He has to speak just as the Father told Him, He had to be an incredible listener. If we are not good listeners, we will not be able to speak what Jesus says. We have to learn to listen; listening is the key. So, how do you and I learn to listen? So, do we learn as believers?

Now, let us go from the classroom to believer. We learn actually to listen first in our prayer closet. Prayer is the place where we actually learn to listen.

**Mark 1:35**

***<sup>35</sup> Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.***

This was His habit. How did He learn to listen? He learned to listen during prayer. In prayer, He learned to listen and He learned to speak.

**Luke 9:28**

***<sup>28</sup> Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.***

We only saw the transfiguration; we didn’t see that He actually went to pray. When He was shining with the glory, He always had; the reason He didn’t go for that, He went to pray and because He was praying the Father glorified Him and then,

**Luke 9:35**

***<sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”***

The problem is that in the prayer closet, we don’t learn to listen; we learn to speak. But that’s not the first exercise; the first exercise is the prayer closet is learn to listen what God has to say to me. You go there and say, “Lord, do you know what I am going through,” and we are not listening and if we are still before God, we hear Him saying, “I already know all your problems but I got an issue with you. That issue is standing between you and Me. Get rid of that.” “Oh, that easy?” God

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says, “That easy!” Instead, without listening from Him, we are bombarding Heaven with our prayers with missiles and rockets and nothing is happening because we are not listening. So, you will see a difference between a minister and a hireling is prayer. How do you know who is a servant of God and who is a hireling? Check their prayer life and their Word life; you will know whether one is a hireling or whether one is a servant of God. What is the difference between a sheep and a goat? They all look alike I mean two-legged sheep and goat they all look alike. Sometimes, the goat looks better than the sheep. Answer is listening.

### **John 10:27-28**

***<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.***

He didn't say, “My sheep has white fluffy fleece.” He didn't say that. He didn't say they have no horn at all, they are so mild. He didn't say that. He said, “My sheep hear My voice.” How do you know you are a sheep? I didn't say but Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me.” What is He saying? “If you don't hear My voice, you cannot follow Me. And I give them eternal life.” You don't have to worry about eternal life, perishing or somebody snatching you from the Father's hands. That's His problem not mine or yours. We always worry about – will I perish or will somebody pluck me? That's not our problem; that's His problem. What is my problem? Hear His voice and follow Him and He says, “You will never perish. Nobody can snatch you from My hand.” You see, hearing how simple we take it but how fundamental it is to the walk of faith.

Let's go to another level to what Jesus says. Now, listen carefully.

### **John 10:1-7**

***<sup>1</sup> “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.***

He says, “Don't try to climb into the Church, to the Body of Christ; come into it through the door.”

***<sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.<sup>3</sup> To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”***

It's interesting, okay? Let's look at verse 7 also.

***<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.***

“Lord, you are confusing me here now. So, You are the Shepherd, You are the door and the sheep are here.” Now, this is the sheep. Now, literally, imagine what He is saying. You are the sheep, Christ is the Shepherd and Christ is the door and there is the fourth person and He is called as the doorkeeper. Right now, I am the door keeper; I hear His voice and I know His voice and I open the door for you to understand His voice. That's why God says, “Be careful about what you say or do to My anointed because they are the doorkeepers.” We always forget this doorkeeper in this whole business. Another word for the doorkeeper is the watchman. We go to the apartment block and who stops you? Watchman. See, we take this watchman so lightly because he has given this small little shack where he and his entire family lives but if he doesn't let you in, you cannot go in. So, Jesus says, “I am the door and these are the sheep.” The Shepherd comes and there is a doorkeeper, a watchman. That's the order you see in verse 3, there is a doorkeeper. The doorkeeper stands in the middle and he has to open the door. Understand that, that's why *Romans 10:13-15* says,

### **Romans 10:13-15**

***<sup>13</sup> “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (The doorkeeper)<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”***



## Listen To Him!

Who is this? The watchman who opens the door. So, the watchman opens the door for Jesus and the sheep hears His voice. Shall we go little deeper? We will go to *Ezekiel 1*,

### **Ezekiel 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***the word of the LORD came expressly*** (express delivery not snail mail but FedEx) ***to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans*** (Now, he is in Babylon) ***by the River Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was upon him there.***

Now, he is a priest. The Word of the Lord came to Ezekiel who is a priest.

### **1 Peter 2:9**

<sup>9</sup> ***But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;***

For all those who are born again, Scripture says, we are, what? A royal priesthood. What are we? A holy nation, a called-out people, we are priest. Like Ezekiel, what are we? We all are priest. Where? In Babylon and then, something happens. The hand of the Lord comes upon me, it comes upon Ezekiel, the whole chapter is the vision he sees of God and heaven; he has what we call an encounter with the living God and a priest will become a prophet. For a priest to become a prophet, the hand of the Lord has to come upon us so that we are able to hear from God and see His visions and see what He wants to for the people. So, here he is. Actually, *Jeremiah* and *Ezekiel* are kind of parallel. Jeremiah is breaking his head over Judah. Israel is already gone into exile. So, God has Ezekiel with Israel in Babylon and He has Jeremiah there in Judah. Two prophets – both telling the same thing. In the multitude of false prophets and he hears the voice of God in Babylon. In *chapter 2 verse 1*, God says,

### **Ezekiel 2:1**

<sup>1</sup> ***He said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."*** (What's the first thing He tells him? I will speak to you. Second thing.) <sup>2</sup> ***And when He spoke to me, the Spirit came into me and set me on my feet. I heard Him speaking to me.***

You see, God speaks to us, but to hear Him I need His Spirit. I cannot hear on my own what God is saying. I cannot hear on my own. Scripture says, "The Spirit entered me and set me on my feet and I heard Him and He spoke to me." He spoke, I heard. And *verse 3*,

<sup>3</sup> ***He said, "Son of man, I am sending you*** (I am sending you to a difficult ministry. A very difficult ministry to a people who doesn't want to hear. ) ***to the sons of Israel, to sinful people who have turned against Me. They and their fathers have sinned against Me to this very day.***

If you go by the dates in the Bible, when Ezekiel went into exile, they say he was twenty-five years old. By the time he heard and saw the vision from God, he was thirty. By the time he has his last vision, he's fifty-two. So, twenty-two years of prophetic ministry. That's what they say – the timeline given in the Bible. Okay? He's an ordinary man like all of us, an ordinary believer, a priest and the prophetic hand of God comes upon him. When it comes upon him, in *Ezekiel 3:16-17* Scripture says,

### **Ezekiel 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> ***At the end of seven days the word of the Lord came to me:*** <sup>17</sup> ***"Son of man, I have made you a watchman(doorkeeper) for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.***

Learn to listen. You're a watchman. Learn to discern the voice of God. Hear me and pass it on. I have appointed you as what? As a watchman. As a doorkeeper and his primary job is to hear God's voice and speak and when he does that, he's opening a door for the sheep. Whether they go through it or not, we do not know. It is a very difficult job. It's not an easy job. Why? God says in *verses 4-7*.

### **Ezekiel 3:4-7**

## Listen To Him!

<sup>4</sup> **Then he said, "Son of man, go to the people of Israel and give them my messages. <sup>5</sup> I am not sending you to a foreign people whose language you cannot understand. (Don't think I'm sending you to North India. I'm sending you to people who understand your language.)<sup>6</sup> No, I am not sending you to people with strange and difficult speech. If I did, they would listen! (So probably if I sent you to north India, they would listen. I'm sending you to your own people. )<sup>7</sup> But the people of Israel won't listen to you any more than they listen to me!...**

Did you see what God is saying? I'm not talking about you. "I'm just using it as an illustration. You listen. You take notes also. But I'm telling you what God is saying. Still, you go. I know they won't listen to Me. They won't listen to you also. They won't listen to you. They won't listen to Me. But still go and speak."

**...For the whole lot of them are hard-hearted and stubborn.**

They won't listen. It's not that they won't hear; they won't listen. Listening means hearing and obeying. They won't obey. They won't. Ezekiel, it's a tough ministry to go and preach to a set of people who will come regularly to Church but won't listen. You need to have the skin of a rhinoceros. You need to be tough. Because this is not a loving, kind people who are excited about the Word. They're sour, like my first batch of students, staring at me. Because they wanted to sleep. They didn't want to know anything about what Shakespeare had to say. After noon, 2 'O clock, "What Shakespeare? Leave us alone." So, He says, "You know what? You need to be tough. So, I'm going to make you tough."

### **Ezekiel 3:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> **But look, I have made you as obstinate and hard-hearted as they are.** (You give them a tough message. They will become harder. Next Sunday, give them a tougher message. No need to mellow it down. I have made you as stubborn and hard as they are.) <sup>9</sup> **I have made your forehead as hard as the hardest rock! So don't be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are rebels.**

They'll give you these looks. If looks could kill you, you'd be dead, Ezekiel. Daggers and knives and swords going, they will give you these angry looks. That's how, I told you that no? They stared at me. But I continued teaching. First, I was fearful. So, I wouldn't look at them. I would look at the girls. They girls would sit there. I'd look at them. This guys are looking. Because I hadn't been made hard like Ezekiel.

**...So don't be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are rebels.**

And to the watchman what does He say in *verse 10 and 11*.

<sup>10</sup> **Then he added, "Son of man, let all my words sink deep into your own heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself.**

"You listen to My words and let them sink deep into your heart first. Don't worry about them. Don't ever forget you are as much as a hearer as them. The message is not for the sheep alone; it's for you too. Don't forget that, preacher. Let it sink into your heart first. Listen to them carefully for yourself."

<sup>11</sup> **Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not.**

You see, over and over and over God saying, "Listen! Listen! Listen!" Are we listening? Let me give you an illustration. You have heard about, the world is so small because of the media and television. You heard about hurricane Katrina, the hurricane that hit US a few years back. But before that in 1969, before most of you were born, there was a hurricane that hit the same area called 'Camille'. It was in 1969, in a small little place called 'Pass Christian'. You can check it on google, it will show you the place. Pass means mountain pass. That's the name the old days they named – Pass Christian. This hurricane was coming and near 250 m from the beach; there were this set of apartments over there. Everybody was given the warning to evacuate. People refused to evacuate. In one of the apartment sets, there were twenty people who were having a hurricane party, cyclone party. The police chief, his name was Jerry. He came and he announced, "You all need to clear out of this place as quickly as possible." They gathered at the balcony and laughed at him. One said, "This is my land. If you want me off, you'll have to arrest me. We are not moving out of this land. We are prepared. We are going to have a

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party, a hurricane party.” He didn't arrest anyone. He could not convince anyone to leave. Twenty people. He took the names of their closest relatives. He gave the final warning and he left. At 10:15 in the night, the hurricane hit and the speed was 205 mph. They said every rain drop was like a bullet. By the time the hurricane was over, all twenty were dead. Now, let me ask you, for the deaths, who will you blame? Was it the police chief's mistake? Was it the apartment builders mistake? Was it the mistake of those who sold them the liquor for the party? Was it the storm's mistake? Or was it because they just chose to ignore the warning? It was so vivid. We know which is the right answer. They had every warning but they chose to ignore the warning. One word we don't like in our life is the word called accountability. It's not a popular word. If we are fat, the problem is with McDonald's. That's why I'm fat. Who I am is my parents' fault. If I don't have enough, it's the government's fault. If I'm facing the consequences of my own sins, it is God's fault. We don't want to be accountable. The Bible is full of warnings all the way to *Revelation*. From *Genesis*, if you eat, you shall die, all the way to *Revelation 22*, these kind of people will not enter. Full of warnings. The question is: do we choose to ignore the warnings of God? Do we see? Do we listen?

### **Matthew 7:24-27**

***<sup>24</sup>“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup> “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”***

James will say in,

### **James 1:22**

***<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.***

He says, "Be careful how you listen. Listen and obey." Let me see.

O I have fifteen minutes more. Listen to the watchman. One of the most powerful words God speaks to the watchman Ezekiel, okay? Not Watchman Nee, but Ezekiel.

### **Ezekiel 3:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup>“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. (Is it NLT? I picked NLT because nobody will miss the warning. It's New Living Translation. Unless you're dead, you will miss this. If you're living, you'll get this. )<sup>18</sup> If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths.***

We'll look at them as case studies.

First case study: the unsaved man who was not warned.

But you will say, “Lord, why should the unsaved man who was not warned be punished?” Right? Why should he be punished? Why should he face judgement? He was not warned. He did not know. Why should he be punished? We would have said, "The pastor received a message." I did not warn the wicked. So, the one who did not hear is innocent in our mind right? O! there are millions of people who have not heard. They're innocent. God says, "No." He says, "They will die in their sins." They are not kept away from judgment. Why? the reason:

### **Romans 1:18-20**

***<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse***

Now, let me tell you – whether you are a Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, do you have to tell anybody you should not lie? You see, you don't need to tell anyone. Do you have to tell anybody you should not steal? Do you have to tell anybody you

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should not kill? Do you have to tell anybody, don't take somebody's wife? So, you know. So, everybody knows. Don't you know in your heart, those who are sitting here, when you are about to do something wrong, isn't there a voice in your heart which says, don't do it? And you still do it. It's not that you didn't know. Do you see? No one is without excuse. That's the dead-end of religion. It doesn't matter which religion you belong to; if you are a devout Catholic, you go to Rome, do your pilgrimage there and you come back, you realize, your guilt hasn't gone. You are a devout protestant. You go to Jerusalem on a holy land tour and you come back. And you realize, your guilt doesn't go. You're a devout Hindu. You go to Benaras. How many times ever you did and come back, you realize, your guilt doesn't go.? You're a devout Muslim. You go to Mecca and come back. But deep within you know, your guilt hasn't gone. Religion doesn't take away guilt; it cannot take away guilt. So you know, you're without excuse. First case study – watchman-- unsaved. Watchman! If you don't warn them, they will die in their sins. Not that they will live, I will have mercy on them, No! Everybody knows. They needn't ask for a reason, a way out. Nobody searched. Nobody sought. And watchman, their blood will be on your hands, because you didn't warn them.

Case study 2:

### **Ezekiel 3:19**

***<sup>19</sup> If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.***

You warned them – repent for the kingdom of God is here. They crucified you. You're fine. Apostle Thomas came. He was dutifully killed. Wherever the apostles went, they killed them. And now, yesterday, in Dhumka in Jharkand, sixteen young people were put in prison. Some of them are younger than you –sixteen, seventeen year old girls from Friends Missionary Band, they went over there and they were sharing the gospel. Somebody gave a complaint. The police people came and put them in prison. Why? What were they trying to say? They were trying to give them a warning. Nobody wants a warning. They keep on sinning and refuse to repent, *“They will die in their sins,”* but you, you're free. Case study 2 – you warned them, they did not listen. You save your life, because you did what you're told to do. That's what we're told to do. We're only told to warn. We are not told them to change them. That, we can't. Only God can. Warn them. Result – punishment for the sinner who refuses to listen. Vindication for the preacher.

Case study 3:

### **Ezekiel 3:20**

***<sup>20</sup> “If righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and ignore the obstacles I put in their way, they will die. And if you do not warn them, they will die in their sins. None of their righteous acts will be remembered, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths.***

Now, we're not talking about sinners. We are talking about the righteous. If the righteous man -- accha(good) apple, turned rotten – that's why we have a saying in English – one rotten apple spoils the whole bunch. The good also goes bad. So, be really careful about your company, the friends you choose. Scripture doesn't say, *“Once saved, always saved.”* Scripture doesn't say that. You will die. The soul that sins in the covenant, Scripture says in *Romans 8*, also will die if you don't repent. You will die.

***...And if you do not warn them, they will die in their sins. None of their righteous acts will be remembered, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths.***

So the watchman's job is to warn the sinner and the righteous. Sinner – repent. Righteous – walk straight. *“Otherwise, I will hold you responsible demanding your blood for theirs.”* Now, do you understand why James says, *“Many of you should not be preachers”*? Because he says, everyone who comes behind this will be guilty of blood, if you change the message. That is case study 3.

Case study 4:

### **Ezekiel 3:21**

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***21 But if you warn righteous people not to sin and they listen to you and do not sin, they will live, and you will have saved yourself, too."***

You warn the righteous. And they repented. Nathan came. Nathan must have been scared, "King David! I don't know what these kings do! You are that man." David said, "I am that man!" Nathan said, "Ayyo! Thank you. Not because the king repented, but because I escaped blood-guilt. I warned him." David repented. He is free. He will live and the prophet, the preacher, the watchman is free of blood-guilt. That is why David said he has sinned, he heard, he obeyed and he changed his ways. All the others before whom who have said "I have sinned", in the *Book of Exodus*, who said 'I have sinned'? Pharaoh said 2-3 times, 'I have sinned'. Balaam said, 'I have sinned'. King Saul said 'I have sinned'. Judas said 'I have sinned', David also said, "I have sinned," but you look at the David and look at the all rest, all of them heard; all of them said, "I have sinned," but they went back to their sinful ways; David turned around and walked back in righteousness – that is the key. Otherwise, God says, "I've appointed you as watchmen, how do you hear?" How does the watchman hear and speak' and how do we hear what the watchman has to say? Do you hear?

How many of you have seen old wireless telegraph, Morse code wireless telegraph? I used to love that as a child, because where I lived across the country, across the wall was the army and the first house in the army was signals. So, I was the only Indian boy in the town. So, I had the freedom to go through the army like anything, Indian soldiers used to love me, because I used to remind them their home. So, I used to sit there and play with the signaling thing. They used to teach me' this is how you do 'process explained'; it's a Morse code by which the other fellow who hears it gets the message. That is called Morse code. In 1900's, there was post called telegraph operator; many people applied. All those who applied were called to the office and they were told, "Sit in the outside and you'll be called into inner office for the interview." There were so many sounds there, people talking and people shouting and in the background, there was a sound of telegraph machine; it's a telegraph office; you have the sound of the telegraph going also. Lot of people have come; they were waiting and waiting to be called and at the end, there was one young man came. He also came and sat there. Suddenly, he got up and he went inside and all the others said, "What's happening here?" When somebody cuts the queue, we get upset, right? A little later, the owner came out with this gentleman and said, "Thank you, gentleman, for coming. The interview is over. He has been selected." And they all got upset. "How can you do that? You never interviewed us. You never asked us a single question and he came in the last." He said, "If you would have listened carefully, you would have seen that the Morse code at the back saying 'whoever understands this message, come inside for the interview'. You were not listening." We always complain that God doesn't speak; no, He speaks. All of creation is speaking about Him. The problem is – we are not listening. He has got an answer to every issue we are facing. He has got an answer for every prayer we have, but the question is: have you learnt to listen? At the end of the age, in the seven Churches, even to the most lukewarm, the Church about whom the God has not a single thing to say good, the Laodicean Church; even to that Church, in *Revelation 3*, He says ***"Behold I stand at the door and knock and if anyone opens."*** Even to you, He says, "Laodicean Church. even you, I have nothing good to say about you, but if you hear My voice, and do what I tell, I will come, I will dine with you, Father with Me; you can overcome; you can sit on My throne." Do you see God's zeal to speak to us? Do we hear? To hear, don't change Scripture; "No, only pastor hears, no!" Anybody can hear.

*Exodus 3:3-4*, Scripture says,

### ***Exodus 3:3-4***

***3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."***

When did God speak to Moses? When he was a spiritual giant? No, when he was a spiritual pigmy. He said, "I cannot speak. Don't send me. I am not good for nothing." A fellow who had absolutely no self-confidence; absolutely nothing; was a big zero. That's when God spoke to him, but he heard. See, we look at the people in the Bible, ah Paul heard, Moses heard. When did they hear? When they were nobody, when they were nothing. So, don't make excuses. Very familiar portion

### ***1 Samuel 3:1-4***

***1 The boy Samuel...***

## Listen To Him!

The boy is Samuel. Say boy. You see the boy Samuel. It's not the teenager Samuel. The youth. Bible uses different words – boy, youth, man, father. It's not a youth; it's not a man. The boy Samuel. Ajay, the boy Ajay. Can you think about it?

***The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare;***

What is the first thing? Word of the Lord is rare, very rare. God doesn't speak. Very rare.

***there was no widespread revelation. <sup>2</sup> And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, <sup>3</sup> and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, <sup>4</sup> that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered,***

What does it mean? He heard. And he heard. And you know from the moment he starts hearing, first, he heard the voice of his mother. He heard everything his mother told him. Then, he was brought to Shiloh, put under Eli, he listened and obeyed everything Eli told him. Now, he's hearing God. You see there is a process in hearing. We want to cut the process and become the product that hears from God. God says, "It doesn't work like that." But when he comes to God and hears from God what is being asked is even more difficult, what he's hearing is judgment about whom he loves like his father. Eli's sons have gone amuck and he probably, in his old age, clings to Samuel because this is what he wanted his own sons to be and here is a little boy who just loves God. And the boy has been told to bring judgment to the prophet. Who wants to go and tell your father, "You know God is saying you are out, your sons are out, you all are going to die"? Nobody wants. But he obeys. You see, listening and obedience, he obeys, and it doesn't stop there. Read verse 19- 21.

### **1 Samuel 3:19-21**

***<sup>19</sup> So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord. (What does it mean?) <sup>21</sup> Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.***

How did *chapter 3* begin? The Word of the Lord was rare. How does it come to verse 19, 20 21? *The Word of the Lord is plenty* because one man heard. Plenty. Begins with *the Word of the Lord is rare*, one boy hears the Word of God he starts obeying. The more he obeys, the more he hears. Now, people from Dan to Beersheba are coming to hear the Word because one boy heard. Instead, what do we do? We want to be cool. We listen to Michael Jackson, Beyoncé, Justin Bibber; we want to be cool. You'll never hear the voice of God. You idolize these empty vessels, you're never going to hear the voice of God. You'll have no influence in this dying world because you're not watchman. If you want to hear from God, learn to shut other voices, discern and shut those voices out. We don't need those voices. We don't need to hear those voices. We don't want to be cool in the world. We don't want a temporary success which ends with death and if we haven't repented hell is wide open for you. No, we don't want that. We want a success which we can carry over onto the other side. So, that's where we began, the key is – *faith comes from hearing, hearing from the Word of God*. Turn to God in obedience. Clarity should increase how you hear with God. More and more clarity should be increasing how you hear from God, clear because we're living in dreadful times where end looks closer and closer than ever before and every Sunday, there is one prayer request which is common, 52 Sundays, "Salvation of unsaved loved ones". How are you going to save them if you don't hear from God? Because how they are going to be saved, only God knows. I don't know, only God knows. If I don't hear from God, I don't know early in the mornings, some wake up, "Today, I had planned to go to this town," but Father says, "Go to Samaria, I got a vessel ready for salvation. Son, go." He sits by the well, speaks to a broken woman, and salvation comes. How did He know? He crosses the river after the whole day's ministry the lake ministers to a demon possessed man. Before you know, he's come to senses, sitting at His feet wanting to go with Him in the ministry. How did He know? God is gone before us. He knows the place, He knows the people, He knows it all. But if I do not know, I will not have any clue how these people going to get saved.

Much of the trouble in ministry is it's man's plans and asking for God's power because they are not seeking God. Board sit, organization sit, they make their master plan, they invite to the meeting. God says, "I don't do stuff like that. Phillip, come. Go to this place." But how do I go? "Don't worry about that. I'll make a way. I'll get you air ticket." Those days, air ticket was to go in the Spirit. Chariot is going fast, Phillip is going faster. How did God know? Because He knows who is prepared, who is ready to listen. If you don't hear in these last days? Because you need to realize there is unbelievable obstruction to the preaching of the Gospel around the world; you can preach almost anything under the sky except the Name of Jesus. They

## Listen To Him!

will not say, "You cannot preach about Jesus." They will say, "You cannot preach against sin: you cannot preach against homosexuality, you cannot preach same sex marriage, against abortion, you cannot speak about any of these things. You cannot speak about Jesus." What did Jesus come for? To save you from your sin. It's a very subtle way, in very smart way. In free nations, that's how they blocked it. In the rest of the nations, you cannot speak about Jesus. Anti-conversations laws in almost every state, one after one is coming. So, how do you do? You need to hear from God. If you don't hear from God, our prayer request will be only a prayer request. God says, "Watchmen, and watchwomen, I will require their blood on your hands because you didn't hear from Me and you didn't pass the message on." It's like I said, "Do not shorten the hand of God by our unbelief. He is able more than able." And don't say you are a boy, because God used boys. Don't say you're a youth; that's what Ezekiel said, "I am a youth. God says, "I have used youth." "I am an old man." "I have used old men also." No excuse with God. the only thing He says is – do you hear? Ajay, slept nicely. Did you hear? Some parts, right? Do you hear? Shall we pray?

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this evening, we come to You, Lord. We just want to thank You; we just want to praise You; we just want to worship You Lord. Help us to hear. Over and over, in the final book in the Bible, You say, "Those who have ears, let them hear, what the Spirit has to say." More than ever before in human history, we need to hear, Lord because there are so many voices around. Some distinctly opposite to Yours; some, many, faking as Yours. But we need to hear Your voice. Help us to value the time in our closet with Your Word and in prayer. Every one of us value the time, Lord, because Your Son valued it. He knew He had to spend time with You alone to hear from You, how much more we mortal beings need to spend time with You that we hear from You. Help us, Lord, to be afraid of the messages You give us because those messages have life. To turn sinners to life, to make righteous to walk in that righteous path or to stop the righteous to fall into sin. Only Your Word has the power. Help us to hear, Lord, clearly. Thank You, Father. Thank You. We just want to bless Your holy Name that You still speak to us. We are no better than Israelites in exile, no better than them. Often, we have hardened our hearts and were stubborn, but we thank You that You were merciful to them. You send Ezekiel to them and Jeremiah to Judah. You're merciful to us. You still speak to so many of Your servants. Thank You, Father, for Your mercy. Thank You. Continue speaking to us and give us the strength to obey. Thank You, Father. You brought us safely to Your house tonight. Reach us all to our home safely, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*