



BE QUIET & Listen



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Introduction

The average persons listen to 20,000 to 30,000 words a-day.

- **Importance of Listening:** The Bible emphasizes the importance of listening to God, His commands, and His guidance.
- **Central Concepts:** The concepts of hearing and hearkening are central to understanding and following God's will.

Count of “Hear” and “Hearken” in the KJV

- **“Hear”:** The word “hear” appears approximately 400 times in the KJV.
- **“Hearken”:** The word “hearken” appears approximately 15 times in the KJV.

Notable Verses with “Hearken”

1. Exodus 15:26: “And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God...”

- **Meaning:** The Hebrew word for “hearken” is שָׁמַע (shama), which means to listen, obey, and respond. This verse emphasizes the importance of not just hearing but actively responding to God's voice.

2. Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our

God is one Lord.”

- Meaning: The command to “hear” (שׁמַע) signifies an invitation to understand and acknowledge God’s sovereignty, which is foundational to Jewish faith.

3. 1 Samuel 15:22: “And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

- Meaning: Here, “hearken” indicates that God values obedience and responsiveness more than ritualistic practices.

4. Proverbs 1:33: “But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely...”

- Meaning: This verse suggests that listening and responding to wisdom leads to safety and security.

5. Isaiah 28:23: “Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech.”

- Meaning: The repetition of “hear” and “hearken” emphasizes the urgency of attentiveness to God’s message.

Old Testament Scriptures that Say “Hear”

1. Exodus 15:26

2. Deuteronomy 6:4

3. Deuteronomy 30:19: “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”

- Meaning: This verse underscores the importance of making a conscious choice to listen to God’s commandments.

4. 1 Samuel 15:1

5. Psalm 34:15: “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.”

- Meaning: This verse reassures believers that God is attentive to those who call upon Him.

6. Psalm 119:145: “I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes.”

- Meaning: The plea for God to “hear” reflects a deep desire for divine guidance and support.

7. Proverbs 1:33

8. Isaiah 28:23

9. Jeremiah 7:2: “Stand in the gate of the Lord’s house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all ye of Judah, that enter in at

these gates to worship the Lord.”

- Meaning: The call to “hear” emphasizes the responsibility of the people to listen to God’s message.

New Testament Scriptures that Say “Hear”

1. Matthew 11:15: “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

- Meaning: This phrase is a challenge to actively listen and understand the teachings of Jesus.

2. Matthew 13:9: “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

3. Matthew 17:5: “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

- Meaning: This divine command emphasizes the importance of heeding Jesus’ words.

4. Mark 4:9: “And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

5. Luke 8:8: “And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

6. John 10:27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

- Meaning: This verse highlights the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers, who recognize and respond to His voice.

7. Acts 2:37: “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart...”

- Meaning: The crowd’s reaction signifies the power of hearing and responding to the Gospel message.

8. Revelation 2:7: “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...”

9. Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice...”

- Meaning: This verse illustrates the personal invitation to respond to Christ’s call.

The Importance of Training Our Ear to Hear

- Cultivating Attentiveness: We must train our ears to hear the voice of God. In a world filled with noise and distractions, it is essential to cultivate the ability to listen attentively to His guidance.

- Hebrew Insight: The Hebrew word שָׁמָע (shama) carries the connotation of not just hearing but also obeying and acting upon what is heard.

Average Words Spoken Daily

- **Communication Statistics:** On average, a person speaks about 7,000 words per day. This statistic highlights the importance of not only speaking but also listening.
- **Reflection:** In our conversations, we often dominate the dialogue, forgetting the value of silence and attentive listening.

Fable on Hearing and Listening

The Tale of the Wise Owl and the Chatty Sparrow

- A wise owl teaches a young sparrow the value of silence and listening to understand the world around her.

Hearing vs. Not Hearing: Biblical Examples

Those Who Heard and Obeyed

1. Moses:

- **Exodus 3:10:** Called by God at the burning bush.
- **Result:** Led the Israelites out of Egypt.
- **Meaning:** Moses' willingness to hear and respond to God's call changed the course of history for the Israelites.

2. Samuel:

- 1 Samuel 3:10: Responded to God's call.
- Result: Became a prophet and leader of Israel.
- Meaning: Samuel's attentive listening established his role as a key figure in Israel's spiritual leadership.

3. Joshua:

- Joshua 1:7-8: Commanded to meditate on God's Word.
- Result: Led Israel into the Promised Land.
- Meaning: Joshua's commitment to hearing God's instructions ensured the fulfillment of God's promises.

4. Mary, the Mother of Jesus:

- Luke 1:38: Accepted God's plan.
- Result: Gave birth to Jesus, the Savior.
- Meaning: Mary's obedience to God's message exemplifies faith and submission.

5. The Disciples:

- Matthew 4:19: Jesus called them to follow Him.
- Result: Became the foundation of the early church.
- Meaning: The disciples' willingness to hear and follow Jesus' call transformed their lives and the world.

Those Who Did Not Hear or Obey

1. Pharaoh:

- Exodus 8:15: Hardened his heart against God's commands.
- Result: Faced plagues and ultimately the loss of his firstborn.
- Meaning: Pharaoh's refusal to hear God's voice led to his downfall.

2. Saul:

- 1 Samuel 15:23: Disobeyed God's command to destroy the Amalekites.
- Result: Lost his kingdom and God's favor.
- Meaning: Saul's failure to heed God's instructions resulted in his rejection as king.

3. The Israelites in the Wilderness:

- Numbers 14:1-4: Complained and refused to enter the Promised Land.
- Result: Wandered for 40 years until a new generation arose.
- Meaning: Their unwillingness to listen to God's promise led to prolonged suffering.

4. Judas Iscariot:

- John 12:6: Greed led him to betray Jesus.
- Result: Ultimately faced remorse and death.
- Meaning: Judas' failure to hear the truth of Jesus' teachings led to his tragic end.

5. The Rich Young Ruler:

- Matthew 19:22: Refused to sell his possessions to follow Jesus.
- Result: Missed the opportunity for eternal life.
- Meaning: His attachment to worldly wealth prevented him from hearing the call to discipleship.

Jesus and Those He Spoke To

Throughout His ministry, Jesus engaged with a diverse range of individuals and groups. His teachings often addressed their specific needs, questions, and circumstances. Here's a list of some of the key figures and groups Jesus spoke to, along with the context of those interactions:

1. The Disciples

- Context: Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, teaching them about the kingdom of God, faith, and service.
- Significance: They became the foundation of the early church and were entrusted with spreading the Gospel.
- Notable Verses:
 - Matthew 4:19: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
 - John 13:34: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another..."

2. The Pharisees and Religious Leaders

- Context: Jesus often confronted the Pharisees and religious leaders regarding their interpretations of the Law and their hypocrisy.
- Significance: His interactions highlighted the importance of genuine faith over ritualistic practices.
- Notable Verses:
 - Matthew 23:27-28: “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres...”
 - John 3:10: “Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?”

3. The Samaritan Woman

- Context: Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman at the well, breaking cultural barriers and addressing her personal life.
- Significance: This encounter emphasized His mission to reach all people, regardless of ethnicity or social status.
- Notable Verses:
 - John 4:13-14: “Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst...”

4. The Rich Young Ruler

- Context: A young man approached Jesus seeking eternal life, but he struggled with the cost of discipleship.

- Significance: Jesus' response challenged the man's attachment to wealth and material possessions.
- Notable Verses:
- Matthew 19:21: "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor..."

5. Mary and Martha

- Context: Jesus visited the home of Mary and Martha, where He taught about the importance of prioritizing spiritual matters.
- Significance: His interaction highlighted the balance between service and devotion.
- Notable Verses:
- Luke 10:41-42: "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful..."

6. Zacchaeus

- Context: Jesus called Zacchaeus, a tax collector, to come down from a tree and invited Himself to Zacchaeus' home.
- Significance: This encounter demonstrated Jesus' willingness to associate with sinners and His power to transform lives.
- Notable Verses:
- Luke 19:9: "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house..."

7. The Crowd

- Context: Jesus often spoke to large crowds, teaching them through parables and sermons.
- Significance: His teachings addressed various aspects of life, morality, and the nature of God's kingdom.
- Notable Verses:
 - Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount, where He taught about the Beatitudes, prayer, and ethical living.
 - Luke 8:4: "And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable..."

8. The Blind Man (Bartimaeus)

- Context: Jesus healed Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, who called out to Him for mercy.
- Significance: This interaction illustrated Jesus' compassion and willingness to heal those in need.
- Notable Verses:
 - Mark 10:51: "And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight."

9. The Woman with the Issue of Blood

- Context: A woman who had suffered from bleeding for twelve years touched the hem of Jesus' garment, believing she would be healed.

- Significance: This act of faith demonstrates the power of belief and Jesus' compassion for those who are suffering.
- Notable Verses:
 - Mark 5:34: "And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."

10. The Woman Caught in Adultery

- Context: Jesus intervened when a woman was brought before Him, accused of adultery.
- Significance: His response emphasized mercy, forgiveness, and the call to repentance.
- Notable Verses:
 - John 8:10-11: "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

11. The Thief on the Cross

- Context: One of the criminals crucified alongside Jesus acknowledged Him and asked to be remembered in His kingdom.
- Significance: Jesus' response assured the thief of salvation, illustrating grace and redemption even at the last moment.
- Notable Verses:

- Luke 23:43: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Conclusion

Jesus spoke to a wide array of individuals, each interaction rich with meaning and purpose. His teachings transcended cultural, social, and religious boundaries, emphasizing the importance of listening, understanding, and responding to God’s voice. As we reflect on these encounters, let us strive to be attentive to the messages God conveys to us today.