

Listening Training

SPIRITUAL TRAINING IN COMMUNICATION

Listening Training

- Attentive to communication from God
- Entrenched in God's perspective, purposes, and plan
- Actively engaging the mind, heart, body, and soul in listening

Listen

Attentive to communication from God

Entrenched in God's perspective, purposes, and plan

Actively engaging the mind, heart, body, and soul in listening

1 Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy.

2 The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all.

3 Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

4 "Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that.

5 But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear.

6 "What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them.

7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

8 "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels.

9 But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels.

10 Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 "And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say,

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said."

13 Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?"

15 Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops.

17 He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.'

18 Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Luke 12:1-21 (NLT)

The Expense of Exalting Self Interests

- Jesus speaks of eternal things, the value of God's people, and how spiritual realities work on earth
- Mister Greedy interrupts to have Jesus tell his brother to settle an inheritance issue

It's About the Relationship

"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Luke 12:21 (NLT)

Not Listening

- Can't hear from God when consumed by other interests or concerns
- Can't have a rich relationship with God when not listening to God
- Can't hear from God with a half-hearted approach

Listening Results

- Rich relationship with God
- Proper priorities
- Improved mental, emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual health
- Increasing heavenly treasures

Training

- To avoid self-focus, write down concerns before practicing listening to God
- To increase listening to God, speak to him directly, set your mind on things above, then with a quiet spirit, listen
- To improve listening skills, practice daily and observe your struggles and successes so you learn as you go
- To measure improvements, notice how listening to God becomes natural and easy, watch your appetite for the things of God jump, see how your soul first heals then soars

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