



Do You Really Hear Me? Luke 8:16-21

INTRODUCTION – LISTENING IS HARD!

- ▶ Note: In Luke 8:1-21 there are eight references to ears, hearing or listening!
- ▶ James 1:19 - *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*
- ▶ Parable of the Sower / Four Different Heart Conditions (Luke 8:5-15)
 - ① Hard Heart
 - ② Shallow Heart
 - ③ Crowded Heart
 - ④ Open/Receptive Heart

HINDRANCES TO HEARING GOD

- ▶ Lack of interest
- ▶ Having an unteachable spirit
- ▶ Resistance due to sin or moral compromise
- ▶ Too much noise in your life
- ▶ Failure to stop & just listen to God

SELF EXAMINATION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
LOW SPIRITUAL HEARING GAUGE HIGH

CONNECTION BETWEEN LUKE 8:1-15 & LUKE 8:16-21 IS INFLUENCE

- ▶ Sharing (Luke 8:1-15... Sow the Word of God)
 - ▶ Shining (Luke 8:16-21... Turn on the Light of Truth)
- Shine (Luke 8:16-18)

PRINCIPLE #1: True hearing results in shining.
(cf. Matthew 5:16)

PRINCIPLE #2: You can actually move backwards spiritually.

PRINCIPLE #3: We all have about as much of God as we really want. (Psalm 42:1; John 8:12)

DUAL FUNCTION OF LIGHT (John 3:18-21)

- ▶ It illuminates right paths
- ▶ It exposes wrong paths

REALLY STRANGE FAMILY TWIST

(Luke 8:19-21; Mark 3:20-21, 31-35; 6:3)

PRINCIPLE #4: There is a spiritual bond which is closer than blood relations.

- ▶ Matthew 7:24-27
- ▶ Luke 8:16 – *Therefore consider carefully how you listen.*



Do You Really Hear Me?

Luke 8:16-21

Sermons can be viewed online at creeksideeg.com/sermon

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

PRAYER

Begin in prayer asking God to guide your time together.

MY STORY | Answer one of the following questions:

- A. Have you ever experienced temporary or permanent hearing loss or known someone who did? How do people with such challenges still communicate with others?
- B. Describe a time when you unexpectedly found yourself without physical light. What happened? How did it make you feel? When was light restored?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What insight, point or principle from Sunday's message really caught your attention? Why?
2. **Read Luke 8:16-17.** What is the purpose of the light talked about in these verses?
3. What is the connection between sowing into good soil in **Luke 8:15** and letting one's light shine in **Luke 8:16**? Check all that apply.
 - If we truly hear what God is saying we will sow His truth into people's lives.
 - If we truly hear what God is saying we will shine our lights for all to see.
 - Sharing and shining go together.
 - Getting God's truth into people's lives is of utmost importance!
 - Other _____
4. What is one of the powerful properties of light mentioned in **Luke 8:17**? How does this apply to the one who shines his/her light, as well as the ones who see the light and have it shined on them? (Hint: **John 3:18-21** might help here!)

5. **Read Luke 8:18.** This verse tells us to carefully consider how we listen to Jesus' words, because there are profound consequences for those who either receive the light and shine it, or for those who reject it. What are some of these consequences?
6. What are some of the reasons why Christians in the US are sometimes reluctant to shine our lights? Put another way, what are the things in our lives that tend to keep our lights from shining brightly?
7. **Read Luke 8:19-21.** In these verses Jesus shares, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Check the statements below that express what Jesus was really saying about his family:
 - He obviously didn't like His family and finally had the opportunity to publically let them know.
 - Jesus loved His family but wanted people to know the importance of choosing God first.
 - Those who hear God's Word and do it have a close bond as members of God's family.
 - Jesus had an earthly family but stressed the eternal nature of His heavenly family.
 - Other _____

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

8. According to the following verses who is the light of the world?
 - **John 8:12**
 - **Matthew 5:14-16**How can these verses be reconciled, and how does the difference between the sun's light and the moon's light help us better understand them?

TAKING IT HOME

9. Memorize **Proverbs 4:18**. How does this verse help you better understand the light you are shining? Where are you along this path described in the verse? Where would you like to be?
10. What are hindrances in your life that are keeping you from "shining brightly" for God? What do you need to do to allow God's light to shine more brightly through you? What step(s) can you take this week to help this process?

PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group. Also ask for God to help you embrace Jesus' teaching, and to understand the incredible privilege and responsibility every believer has to shine brightly in a dark world.