

Morning Sermon May 20, 2018
"Hearing God's Words" John 8:47-59

I. The great and sure danger connected with not hearing
God's words –

"He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." (John 8:47 NKJ)

1. According to our Lord Jesus Christ, not hearing God's words, especially refusing to hear God's words, proves a person to be "not of God."

A. The opposite of this is true –

"He who is of God hears God's words;" (John 8:47A NKJ)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJ)

B. Hearing means CONTINUAL HEARING –

- We see, looking back at John 8:30, there was a point at which they did hear Him, and were starting to believe -

As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

- In John 8:31-32 Jesus' encouraging their abiding (continuing in) His Word, promising with this continuing, eventual freedom from sin -

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:30-32 NKJ)

C. Yet, John 8:32 was the beginning of the offense of God's Word to these people, they felt no need to be set free –

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?" (John 8:33 NKJ)

At this point they started arguing with, rather than listening to, God's Word, they did not want to face the truth themselves; including the facts:

- They were slaves of sin –

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34 NKJ)

- They were children of the Devil, liars and murderers –

"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44 NKJ)

2. Not being willing to hear the truth about themselves, leads to their not hearing truth about Christ, rather they fight it –

A. They fight the truth about Christ with ungodly slander -

Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" (John 8:48 NKJ)

- The Samaritans were people who did not know God's law, Jesus says to the Samaritan woman –

"You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. (John 4:22 NKJ)

- Yet, Jesus went to the Samaritans, which may have been part of their accusation –

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. (John 4:9 NKJ)

- They also say he has a demon, implying possibly, at least, two things:

(1) That He (Jesus) was in league with the Devil –

Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons." (Matthew 12:24 NKJ) *Implying His miraculous power was demonic!*

(2) That He (Jesus) was crazy, insane, possessed by a devil and therefore not thinking straight ...

Of course, if He were thinking straight, according to them, He would have been praising THEM, THEIR Great righteousness, their holiness ...

Beware of needing praise of yourself, Christ warns against it –

"So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" (Luke 17:10 NKJ)

3. Not hearing Christ's Words, leads to dishonoring Christ & God –

Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor

Me.⁵⁰ "And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. (John 8:48-50 NKJ)

What Christ is saying here is He is not concerned about His own glory and Name, but dishonoring Him, as He is glorifying God, means they are dishonoring God Who they are called to glorify –

Q. 1 What is the chief end of man? Answer: To glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ) God will judge them for dishonoring Christ!

II. The great and sure benefits connected with the hearing, keeping of God's (Christ's) Word –

"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." (John 8:51 NKJ)

1. Benefit #1 Eternal Life -

"No believers will ever see death, because they have been born again of incorruptible seed and so will live even when they die." John Calvin having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, (1 Peter 1:23 NKJ)

2. Benefit #2 Knowing God and Christ, which is intimately connected to benefit #1 –

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

Knowing Christ means "rejoicing" in Christ, which these people were clearly NOT DOING –

A. How sadly lost were these people, they turn the promise of eternal life – John 8:51, into an accusation of demon possession – Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death. (John 8:52 NKJ)

*B. Second, they pit Abraham against Christ –
⁵³ "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be? (John 8:53 NKJ)*

C. Yet, in answer to their accusatory question – "Whom do You make Yourself out to be?" He blesses them with wonderful truth about Himself -

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. ⁵⁵ "Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. ⁵⁶ "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." (Jn. 8:52-56 NKJ)

Oh, how different from Abraham they were, Abraham rejoiced to see Christ's day, even from afar, they were face-to-face with Christ, and despised Him!

3. They were walking by SIGHT and not by FAITH –

Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" (John 8:57 NKJ)

A. They were looking at Christ and seeing a thirty-something year old man! Not the ETERNAL SON of God!

B. How different from Peter –

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:66-68 NKJ) They made a big deal out of His appearance, Peter listened to His Words!

4. Oh, what they MISSED; knowing Christ –

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58 NKJ)

Here is the Name God gave Moses while speaking to him about delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt, now the same God (Jesus) would deliver them from slavery to sin –

A. It shows Jesus to be God, they knew He was claiming Deity - :59

B. Jesus as the "I AM" is The Bread of Life – John 6:35; The Light of the World John 8:12; The Door of the Sheep -John 10:7; The Good Shepherd – John 10:11; The Resurrection and Life – John 11:25; the Way, Truth and Life – John 14:6; The True Vine – John 15:1, the "I AM" Who cannot be taken, but gives Himself – John 18:6

"When God would teach mankind His Name, He calls Himself the great I AM, and leaves a blank _____ believers may, supply those things for which they pray." C. H. Mackintosh

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