



## *Chalmette Church of Christ*

*December 13, 2009*

### *“How’s Your Hearing?”*

Since the spread of the Gospel is dependent upon the use of words (i.e., preaching and teaching), there is a great burden placed upon the shoulders of the one who proclaims the message. James makes clear reference to the stricter judgment that teachers will receive (Jam. 3:1). Job’s pen reveals that when we talk about God He is listening to our words (Job 42:7). Thus, as preachers and teachers, we are charged to preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:1) and to hold fast to those things which have been revealed (2 Thes. 2:15).

There is also a great burden placed upon the shoulders of the one who is listening when the Gospel is preached or taught. Jesus firmly warned, “...take heed how you hear...” (Luke 8:18). Of His generation, Jesus said, “with their ears they can barely hear” (Matt. 13:15, ESV). The rejection of Stephen’s message was attributed to the fact that those listening “stopped their ears” (Acts 7:57).

Realizing that men would have various reactions to the Gospel of the kingdom and that those reactions would often be a reflection of how they listened, Jesus told the parable of the sower or the parable of the soils (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-8, 13-20; Luke 8:4-8, 11-15). The latter term is probably more of a description of the contents, but the former is the more traditional name of the parable. The words of this parable were aimed at both the future teachers of the Gospel and those who would be taught. A rejection of the message

or the failure to remain true to it may have very little, if anything, to do with the manner in which it was presented. More times than not, failure to obey and remain faithful has much, if not everything, to do with the hearer. How is your hearing?

The man who can hear the Word of God with clarity is the man who has prepared his heart to receive it. James says that our reception of the Word is paramount to saving our souls (Jam. 1:21). The parable under discussion in this article helps us understand how we are and how we are not to hear or receive the Gospel’s saving message. In short, the point of this parable is **“Prepare your heart.”** Without a heart that is as fertile as a farmer’s field, the Word of God will not spring up, take root, and thrive. Like the great restorer of Israel’s return, we must prepare our hearts before we ever seek the Word of God and attempt to put its principles to action in our lives (Ezra 7:10). Therefore, Jesus stated that the only heart that is ready and willing to hear the Word is both “honest and good” (Luke 8:15).

In contrast to hearts that are honest and good, Jesus presents three other heart conditions that make hearing, receiving, and maintaining the Word an impossibility. The first of those is a hard, calloused heart with little or no interest in spiritual things, and is represented by the roadside soil. Packed down from the travels of both man and animals, this soil is too hard for the seed to penetrate its outer layer.

So, too are the hearts of many. Their lives are so full of worldly ambition and their hearts are completely unconcerned about spiritual things that sermons intended to cut them to the heart have little or no effect. They listen, but the true message of sin, hope, and heaven never sway them. Why? Because they listen with no intention of changing.

The second type of soil is described as rocky or stony. The danger in planting here is plainly revealed. There is very little room for growth because the rocks are in the way. Consequently, the roots cannot run deep in the earth (Matt. 13:5), where the moisture necessary for sustaining life can be found (Luke 8:6). With nothing on which to feed, that which springs up quickly withers and dies. Many won to Christ through the Word are similar to this type of soil. Their lack of depth comes from a lack of continual hearing of the Word. Those who delight in the Word of the Lord will find such depth and strength that they will be like trees "planted by rivers of water" (Psa. 1:3). Obviously, if they do not meditate in that Law, then a lack of depth and nourishment will eventually be their downfall. The problem with this type of listening is that it is not sustained.

The third type of soil described has deadly thorns growing in it. Most would see the need to remove the thorns to protect the fruit of the ground. These thorns were there before the seed ever arrived and did not seem like much of a problem before. However, their presence is a deterrent to the growth of the seed. Sadly, the hearts of some converts are the same. They hear and apply the portion of the Gospel that provides access to Christ's blood, but they do not continue to hear and use that Word as a way of fending off the incitements of this world. By not uprooting those desires for riches and pleasure, they eventually succumb to the pressures around them. They either lack the understanding of the Word as to what God wants them to be or they have failed to make the proper applications

in certain areas of life. They do not hear the Word of God as a defense against the pull of the world, and thus they are choked out.

How is your hearing? Do you hear with an honest and good heart? Is your life so calloused to spiritual things that you have no interest in the One who died for you? Have you received the Word, but are failing to put down roots? Are you utilizing the Word of God as a defense mechanism against the deceitfulness of this world? Friends, only you can answer these questions, but one day God will judge all of us based on how we have heard His Word!

By: Wayne Jackson

Chris Brady and Brandianne Morrissey came forward this past week. Both asked for prayers of the church. May God bless them in their daily walk.

#### WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Four students at the Memphis School of  
Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morne Stephanus- In Africa

Roger Scully- Morgan City Church of Christ

The Old Landmarks Radio Broadcasting

Rogers City Church of Christ- Michigan

The Truth in Love

In Search of the Lord's Way



# Kid's Korner

**See if you can answer the following questions:**

**Answers from last week:**

1. The Levites 2. Fifth Day 3. Three hundred cubits 4. Rebekah 5. Eve

**Old Testament Novice**

1. What animal did Nathan use to convict David of his sin? He had taken one from a poor man instead of one from his own pen.
2. What was Noah's occupation after God's great downpour? He had to do something as his carpenter days were o'er.
3. Two cities of old were immoral, filled with sin so dire; God destroyed them suddenly with brimstone and fire!
4. Jacob and Esau were twins one came out white, one red; which was the elder son? As from the mother's womb, red led.
5. Pharaoh's dreams were troublesome, his wise men could not interpret their intent; who finally remembered that Joseph had revealed what his own dreams meant?

**Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!**



The food pantry at the Church Building is running very low. Please remember to bring non-perishable items if possible!



*Cleaning Schedule*

*Month of December—J.V. Russell*

*Upcoming Events*

December 27- Ladies Class

*December Birthdays*

- 16- James Snyder  
18- Sherry Towle  
22- Veneta Gautreaux  
23- Tina Lance  
28- Rhonda Jones  
30- Edie Schulz



# Prayer List



**Mary Jo Lance  
Malcolm Vasquez  
Joe Riley  
Alice Riley  
Sherry Towle  
Betty Grisham  
Sheila Matthews  
Burnell Rogers  
Margo  
Claudia Smith  
Lisa Lance  
Vickie Swanner  
Patricia Rodney  
William Brossette  
Donny Vick  
Mary Macalusa  
Everett Tittsworth**

**Chalmette Church of Christ  
200 De La Ronde  
Chalmette, LA 70043  
504-279-9438**

**Services of The Church  
Sunday**

Bible Classes 9:00 am  
AM Worship 10:00 am  
PM Worship 6:00 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

**Elders**

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

**Evangelist**

**Mark Lance 504- 250-8492**

**gospelpr@cox.net**

**Deacons**

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

Website: [www.chalmettecoc.org](http://www.chalmettecoc.org)

Chalmette Church of Christ  
Post Office Box 1165  
Chalmette, LA 70044