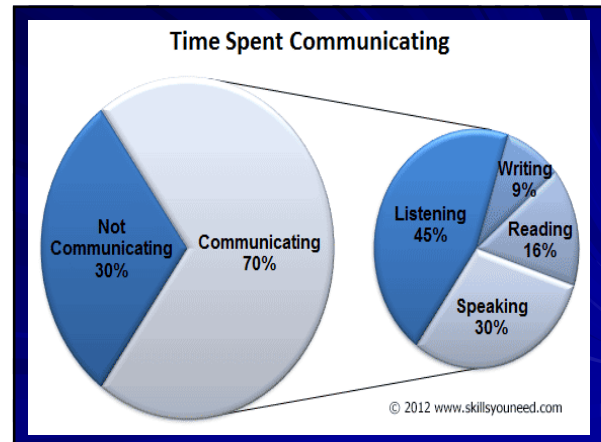


## How Well Do You Listen?

Luke 8:18



*"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

- Concerning John the Baptist - **Matthew 11:15**
- The parable of the sower - **Matthew 13:9**
- The explanation of the parable of the tares - **Matthew 13:43**
- To the churches of Asia  
– **Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22**

What is being said is very important.  
- cf. **Mark 4:23-25**

## Three Types Of Listeners

- The "Dull Of Hearing" Hebrews 5:11f; cf. Matthew 13:13-15
- This prevents them from:
  - Understanding God's truth
  - Turning from sin to God
  - And being healed (saved) by God!

Who would want to be this type of listener?

## Three Types Of Listeners

- Those With "Itching Ears"  
2 Timothy 4:2-4; Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:10ff; Isaiah 30:10
- This turns from the truth:
  - Causes people to err. Jeremiah 23:27, 32

Who would want to be this type of listener?

## Three Types Of Listeners

- Those Who Hear With "An Honest And Good Heart" Luke 8:15
- **Acts 17:2-5, 10-11** Bereans  
"Received the word with readiness"  
"Examined the Scriptures daily"

Would you want to be this type of listener?

## The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Being Blessed ...
  - There are wonderful things to learn. **Matthew 13:15-18**
  - Some did not have the opportunity to learn. **1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 1:3; 3:10-12**

**We miss out on these blessings if we do not carefully listen!**

## The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Saving Faith ...
  - Saved by grace through Christ – **Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2; cf. Romans 1:16-17**
  - Faith comes through hearing. – **cf. Romans 10:14,17; cf. John 20:30-31**

**Does your "listening" hinder the development of your faith?**

## The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Bearing Fruit ...
  - Honest and good heart brings forth fruit. **Luke 8:15**
  - Bearing fruit comes from "understanding" the grace of God! **cf. Colossians 1:6**

**Only by listening well can we "understand" God's grace, and be thus motivated to bear fruit to his glory!**

## The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Preventing Apostasy ...
  - Danger of drifting, by neglect - **Hebrews 2:1-3**

**– Poor listening is often the first step to apostasy!**

## The Importance Of Good Listening

- Essential To Avoiding Rejection And Condemnation ...
- If we do not listen as we should ...
  - We reject Christ. **Matthew 10:14-15; 40**
  - We are judging ourselves unworthy of eternal life - **cf. Acts 13:44-49; cf. Matthew 12:41-42**
  - Judged by God's word. **John 12:48**

**–The rejection and condemnation will come from God!**

## Steps To Better Listening

- Stop talking ... **cf. James 1:19; cf. Nehemiah 8:3-5; Acts 20:7f**

**Does not the proclamation of God's Word deserve attention?**

Steps To Better Listening

- Listen From First To Last ...  
**cf. Nehemiah 8:3-5; Acts 20:7f**  
– Remove Distractions.

**Listeners must listen to ALL the parts to truly understand.**

Steps To Better Listening

- Read Along In Your Bible ...  
**1 Timothy 4:13**

**We encourage our children to do this, adults should set the example.**

Steps To Better Listening

- Listen With Faith ... **cf. Hebrews 4:1-2**  
– i.e. Listen with the willingness to believe what is shown to be true. **cf. John 12:37-42**  
*(Note: "could not believe")*

**If we don't listen "with faith," we will fall short of our heavenly rest!**

Steps To Better Listening

- Listen With A Mind To Act ...  
– Are we like the people in Ezekiel's day? - **cf. Ezekiel 33:30-32**  
– **Hearing must be accompanied by doing to be of any profit – James 1:22-25**

**As important as good listening may be, the blessedness comes only if we are doers as well as hearers!**