

An Obligation to the Word

Text: Mark 4:21-25

CIT: Jesus explained to His disciples that they were not only to hear but also apply the Word.

Proposition: We are entrusted with the Word of God and are expected to apply it daily.

Interrogative: How?

Unifying Word: Steps

Major Objective: Doctrinal

Specific Objective: I expect my listener to understand that the Christian is responsible to the Word and the truths we are entrusted with. The more we grow in Christ, then more is expected.

Introduction:

1. Church (and religion in-general) is viewed as something that merely supports someone's life, it is viewed as an add-on in their life. (Social Bridge)
2. In your marriage, do you view it as something that is an accessory to your life or do you approach it as something in which you also have an obligation? (Personal Bridge)
3. This is what Jesus is getting to here in Mark 4. Jesus is explaining to His disciples that they were not only to hear but to also apply the Word. (CIT/Textual Bridge)
4. So it is in our Christian walk. We are entrusted with the Word of God and are expected to apply it daily. (Proposition)
5. How? How can we fulfill our obligation to the Word? (Interrogative)

T.S.: We fulfill our obligation to the Word of God by following the steps I believe we see in this parable. (Structural Bridge)

The first step in fulfilling our obligation to the Word is ...

Body:

I. ***Listen*** to the Word of God.

- A. (Exp) Jesus told His disciples to listen, "if anyone has ears..." This command is contingent though.
 1. In order for someone to hear they must have ears, spiritual ears.
 2. If you have ears, listen.
- B. (Ill) Charie and the camper conversation or Thomas J and the ear muffs
- C. (App) Do you have spiritual ears? Are you born again? The Gospel and the things of God simply will not and do not make sense to anyone outside the Kingdom of God. Not because they are dumb or ignorant, or don't have some special ability. No, they don't understand because they are not saved and the Holy Spirit is not there to teach them.
 - If you have ears, are you listening to what the Word of God says? To hear does not simply mean to acknowledge that something was said. The Greek word used means "to hear, to heed, to obey."
 - So the definition of hearing means that you take heed to what is said.
- D. (T.S.) We begin to fulfill our obligation to the Word by taking the step of "Listening" to the Word, and when we understand what hearing actually entails then we begin to see the second step of how we fulfill our obligation to the Word.

II. Pay ***attention*** to what you ***hear***.

- A. (Exp) Jesus clearly tells His disciples in verse 24 "Pay attention to what you hear (ESV)." He is literally telling them in the Greek to "look at what you hear." To understand it, to consider it, pay attention!
- B. (Ill) I've picked on my wife a little so now I guess it's my turn to be honest. I'll be watching a ball game or reading a book or article or something and my wife will be talking to me. All of a sudden I'll hear those words that immediately draw up red flags in my mind, "you haven't heard a single word I've said have

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you?” I’ll say of course I have and I’ll repeat what she said, but then after I repeat it I’ll realize that she said something that needed a response. It’s at that point that I realize that I heard her but wasn’t paying attention to what she was saying. Just because I could repeat her word for word does not mean I was paying attention to her.

- C. (App) Folks we are to pay attention to the wonderful Word of Life, God’s Word. We are not to simply memorize verses if we do not apply those verses to our lives. If we memorize Scripture without application then we are not paying attention to what God’s Word says.
 - Are you listening to God’s Word with the intent of paying attention to it?
 - God’s Word always demands a response in our lives.
- D. (T.S.) Paying attention to God’s Word, applying it to our lives, is the second step in fulfilling our obligation to His Word. There is one more step here that Jesus mentions.

III. **Grow** in the Word of God.

- A. (Exp) Jesus exhorted His followers to grow in the Word of God.
 - With the measure you use it will be measured to you, and still more will be added. You will grow in the Word the more you apply what God has revealed to you through Scripture.
 - This is the purpose of the parable of the lamp, don’t hide God’s Word away, use it as it was intended.
 - He gave them a promise of growing in the Word, yet He also gave them a warning.
 - The future spread of the mystery of the kingdom will be rewarded in direct measure to one’s faithfulness to that task.
 - If you are faithful, you will be rewarded.
 - If you are not faithful to the Word, you are not going to grow.
- B. (Ill)
- C. (App) Are you faithful to God’s Word? There is a promise and a warning to us to apply God’s Word in our lives so that we can grow in Christ. If we don’t use it Christian we will not grow in Christ, we will lose part of our sanctification, we will find that we will struggle even more with sin in our lives.
- D. (T.S.) These are the three easy steps in fulfilling our obligation to God’s Word. But may we never approach this as merely going through a process may we simply be obedient to God’s Word and may we desire to dwell in His Word and apply it to our lives.

Conclusion

1. Listen to God’s Word, Pay Attention to God’s Word, and Grow in God’s Word.
2. We are entrusted with God’s Word and are expected by Him to apply it daily.
3. Are you listening to God’s Word, paying attention to it, and allowing Him to apply His Word in you life daily? If so then you are growing in the Word of God.
4. Closing ill.