

Rock Us: *Godsense: Experiencing Life Through the Five Senses of Jesus* Part 2: Ears To Listen

We humans have five amazing senses – vision, hearing, smell, taste & touch – all work together in amazingly intricate ways in humans. As great as these senses are, they're still flawed & we don't employ them to perfection. Jesus, however, is perfect & used His five senses to live a perfect life & perfectly live out the will of God. Tonight, let's look at the sense of hearing & what we can learn about it from Jesus.

Like vision, human hearing is an amazingly complex system that allows us to sense & interpret sound (fluctuating vibrations that create waves of pressure in gas, solid or liquid.) Our ears receive those waves of vibration and they get converted into mechanical energy by the ear drum and then transferred by 3 small bones to the transferred to the oval window opening of the *cochlea*, a snail-shaped tube within the skull. The cochlea contains sensory hearing cells on a flexible membrane tissue called the basilar membrane. When the oval window of the cochlea vibrates, the *basilar membrane* and sensory hearing cells are displaced. Two of the important sensory hearing cells are the *outer hair cells* and the *inner hair cells*. *Outer hair cells* act like a biological amplifier/attenuator, boosting soft sounds and dampening loud sounds. *Inner hair cells* transfer sound information to the auditory nerve. The auditory nerve transfers sound information to various *brainstem* and *auditory cortex* regions in the brain so that information can be processed and meaning interpreted. Human ears can hear sounds as low as 20Hz (20 vibrations per second) to as high as 20,000Hz. We can hear incredibly quiet things (like a pin dropping on the floor or a mosquito's buzzing wings) and we can stand incredibly loud things, like the roar of a jet engine or the blasting sounds at stadium hard rock concert. Sound has power. The massive volcanic eruption of Krakatoa in Indonesia in 1883 created the loudest sound in recorded history. This eruption was heard by people an incredible 3,000 miles away!

But as great as our hearing is, we all fail to hear things we should. We don't hear things that we should & we listen to things or voices that we shouldn't. Our vision is imperfect. But Jesus doesn't suffer from poor hearing; He has perfect hearing. He knew what to listen to & what to tune out. And Jesus said this important phrase on multiple occasions, **Mk 4:23** "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." So let's explore how he used His perfect sense of hearing and try learn from Jesus about how we can listen better:

1. Jesus took time to get away into a quiet place to hear from God the Father: Lk 15:6 *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

Are we taking the quiet time to hear from God & really listen to Him? Or are we too busy or too distracted by all the loud voices of this world?

2. Jesus took time to listen to others & really hear their hearts (e.g., 2 blind men Mt 20:29-34; thief on cross Lk 23:40-43)

Are we taking the time to carefully listen to those around us who are in need? Or are we just focused on ourselves?

3. Jesus heard the voices of haters tempters & evil, but He didn't listen to them (e.g., taxes to Caesar Mk 12:13-17; devil tempts Jesus Mt 4)

Are we giving too much weight to voices of haters or evil that want us to fall? Or are we listening with the spiritual ears of Jesus to filter out lies?

4. Jesus didn't shy away from hearing hard things (e.g., Martha after Lazarus' death Jn 11:21-23; Cup of Suffering Mt 26:39)

Do we just want to hear the good things? Or are we willing to listen to the tough & challenging truths that we really need to hear?

One of the hardest & most important things we all need to hear is that we're all sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus is the one & only Savior of the world! But sadly, many ears are closed to this amazing message today. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah about this in **Mt 13:15-16** *For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes - so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to Me and let me heal them.* "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear." God may be opening your ears to the message of Salvation in Jesus Christ for you to hear tonight. So I quote Jesus once again:

Mk 4:23 "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." God loves you and many One Way for you to eternal peace: the Lord Jesus.

And I know for a fact that no one here is perfect (me included), no one here tonight has perfect hearing. We blow it with our listening a lot! So tonight, we all need to let God search our hearts and see which of the four listening areas above that we need to listen more like Jesus. If you listen ore like Jesus to God & to the needs of other, if we can open our ears to tough things we need to hear and if we can filter out the haters & evil, we will be so blessed! Trust me, we all need to listen like Jesus. "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Amen

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. Human hearing is an amazing sense that all of us here possess. What's one of the greatest things you've ever personally heard in your life?

B. We can also hear bad, sad, terrible or destructive things. What the worst thing you've ever personally heard in your life?

C. We just learned that Jesus has perfect hearing. We also learned His words in Mk 4:23: "Anyone with ears to hear should listen & understand."

So let's explore Jesus' way of listening by analyzing the 4 points listed in the [Listen Like Jesus](#) (below), reading the associated Bible verses & thoughtfully answering the included questions about how our hearing needs to improve & become more like Jesus'.

LISTEN LIKE JESUS

1. Jesus took time to get away into a quiet place to hear from God the Father: Lk 15:6 *But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.*

Are we taking the time to hear from God & really listen to Him or are we too busy/distracted by the voices of this world? Why is this so vital?

2. Jesus took time to carefully listen to others & really hear their hearts (In your Bibles, read Mt 20:29-34 & Lk 23:40-43)

Are we taking the time to carefully listen to people in our lives who are in need or are we just focused on ourselves? Why is this so important?

3. Jesus heard the voices of haters tempters & evil, but He didn't listen to them or fall into their traps (Read Mk 12:13-17 & Mt 4:1-11)

Are we giving too much weight to voices of haters & evil that want us to fall, or are we listening with spiritual ears like Jesus' to filter out lies?

4. Jesus didn't shy away from hearing hard things (Read Jn 11:21-23 & Mt 26:39). Do we just want to hear the good things, or are we willing to listen to the tough & challenging truths about ourselves that we really need to hear?

D. Jesus said this in Mt 13:15-16 *"For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes - so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to Me and let me heal them."* "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear." There is a major contrast here between those who cannot hear God & those who are blessed because they can. How has God helped you hear better in your life? How has that improved hearing helped you?

CLOSING PRAYER: Dear Father God, thank You for giving us ears to hear. Help us to listen to You in the quiet places in life. Help us to hear the voices of those in need in our world. Lord, by Your Word & Spirit, give us the ability to help us to filter out the lies of the haters & of evil that seek to bring us down & destroy us. Open our ears to the tough things that You want us to hear. We thank You so much in advance for helping us hear & listen like Jesus. Thank You most of all for sending Jesus Christ to die in our place & save us by His shed blood on the cross. Amen