

July 16, 2017

**“How Well Do You Listen?”**  
**(Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23)**

Our question for the day is, “How well do you \_\_\_\_\_?”

Jesus was not interested in teaching them or us about \_\_\_\_\_ . He’s talking about people who are exposed to his \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus knew that some of those who hear the word will leave having heard \_\_\_\_\_ .

Let’s seek to answer our question of the day:

**#1.- Statistics show that \_\_\_\_\_ people do not really listen very well even in the best of \_\_\_\_\_ .**

We don’t \_\_\_\_\_ much of what we do hear...even if we do listen.

Studies show that people remember \_\_\_\_\_. That’s one reason Jesus used so many \_\_\_\_\_ (which is a kind of story).

Listening is \_\_\_\_\_ business.

\_\_\_\_\_ is difficult business...Listening is difficult.

**#2.- Jesus’ emphasis in this parable is not upon the \_\_\_\_\_ or the seed but upon the \_\_\_\_\_ .**

God is the sower, the Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_, and the soil is our \_\_\_\_\_ .

The most eloquent preacher/teacher in the world cannot reach the heart that is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gospel or the life that is \_\_\_\_\_ with the weeds of worldly concerns.

**#3.- Sometimes we need to simply get to a \_\_\_\_\_ place and listen. That is a major part of what \_\_\_\_\_ is all about – listening.**

We need a time when we can simply spend time in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ .

Some people call this “ \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.”

**It takes a real \_\_\_\_\_ to set aside the time to truly \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

It’s really ironic.... We will resolve to spend an hour each day exercising our \_\_\_\_\_ at the gym, but we won’t spend half that time each day getting our \_\_\_\_\_ in condition spending time in God’s presence.

Some of the seed fell on good ground and they brought forth fruit –in some cases a \_\_\_\_\_-fold!

In what condition is the soil of your heart?

It’s simply a matter of listening.

(over)