Hearing: The Neglected Step

Ken Chapman · Romans 10:13–17

INTRODUCTION

- When there's a breakdown in communication, … the breakdown is usually on the listener's part rather than the speaker.
- But when it comes to receiving the communication that God has spoken to us, it can become dangerous. And life and eternity altering.
- These are biblical precepts. This isn't just some man-made list. We read of these steps and the essentiality of these steps in God's holy word.

1 Hearing: The Most Neglected, Most Foundational Step

Romans 10:13–17

- I think the most neglected step is the first one. And that's hearing.
- Hearing is the most foundational step, because without hearing there is no faith.
- The first step has to be hearing. Because no other step in approaching God can take place without this one.
- How shall they believe in whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?
- So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2 What Hearing Means: Hear, Understand, Think, Accept

James 1:21

- The first layer would be hearing and audible noise.
- Did you hear me? They don't mean, did you hear or recognize an audible noise? But did you understand?
- The scriptures have another word for that rather than hearing, is the word meditate. Is thinking about what was said.
- There's the hearing of the sound, there's the understanding of it, there's the thinking on it, and then there's the accepting of it.
- Lay aside all filthiness and overflow with wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word.

3 An Exclusive Step: Only the Word of God, Unfiltered

Matthew 19:3–4

- We need to listen to the word of God as that foundational building block for our approach to God, but we must listen only to the word of God.
- No book can take the place of the book.
- Have you not read? In other words, he's simply saying, What did God say?

- Hearing the word of God. Not the words of man. Not filtered through the mind of some man. But what does God say?

4 Swift to Hear, Slow to Speak

James 1:18–20

- It's also important that we hear the unfiltered word of God, not my own words.
- So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear. Slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- It doesn't matter what you think. It doesn't matter what I think. All that matters is what God said.
- That requires another H word, humility. Of recognizing that when I open up this word, I'm opening up the word of God.

5 What If It Isn't What I Want to Hear?

- But what if what I read or hear isn't what I want to hear? Will I be like the rich young ruler?
- He understood what was required of him. And so the text says he went away sorrowful for he had great possessions.
- So will you be a rich young ruler? Or will you be a Saul of Tarsus?
- In the words of James, he was swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Am I willing to listen to the word of God and meditate on it and receive that implanted word which is able to save my soul.**

MY NOTES