



Group Lesson 3- Hearing God

Some words appear in different colored font to give extra emphasis, encouraging further meditation.

Hearing God | Luke 10:38-42

Basic Principle: You can hear God through His Word.

A reminder about the methodology used:

Over the past two lessons we have explored Biblical meditation as a concept, and learned how important context is in this process. Each lesson has had a group activity, where people can practice the art of meditation, and a take home portion. The study is only an onramp to the two other activities and should not be separated from them.

Thinking Things Through

1. How does God speak to people? Create a list then discuss what you feel is the best way to hear from God.

Digging Deeper

Have a volunteer read Luke 10:38-39

2. What was Mary doing when it says that she “sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said”?

3. If you were in Mary’s position, what might have gone through your mind as you listened? When you encounter God’s word today, how do you filter between what are merely your thoughts and impressions are and what God is saying to you?

4. When you read God's word and hear from him, what do you do with what you hear? What do you do to help you remember what you just heard?

Doing Life Together

Read Luke 10:40-41

5. What are some of the day-to-day distractions that detract from quality time with God?
6. What are the spiritual distractions in your life that give an appearance of spiritual activity but don't transform you or draw you closer to Jesus?
7. Why did Mary sit and listen, and Martha busy herself with preparations? What is one key reason they did things so differently?

Read Luke 10:41-42

8. What decisions do you need to make if you are to hear from Jesus as you take time to meditate on his word?

9. Jesus is giving us great spiritual and emotional insight in verse 42. Identify it and discuss how and why it is beneficial.

10. Identify spiritual activity in your life that is “busy work” with little substance. How can you change it to get more from it?

Benefits: Learning to hear Jesus

- Note the example from the interaction between Mary and Jesus as she received her portion of the Word personally. It is rewarding to hear the Lord and receive from Him. Its not out of line to expect it when we read God’s word.
- Revelation remains in your spirit. You do not forget the truths God shows you.
- You receive your portion of the Word for the prayer time. As you meditate, the portion you receive is the basis of your response and prayer.
- You will grow spiritually, become discerning. Mary was the only one privileged to anoint Jesus before His burial. She learned to recognize the voice of God, and was obedient to do what He said. (John 12:3-8)
- Anna and Simeon were others in the right place at the right time to encounter Jesus because they learned to recognize God’s voice and were obedient to it. (Luke 2:25-35 Simeon; Anna v2:36-38)
- Strength for the intercessor. Sitting at Jesus feet hearing and receiving His Word is where you put aside the cares and concerns of the day as you are washed by the Word. Your inner needs are met, strengthening you. (Ephesians 5:26)
- Prayer becomes easy, God has shown you what to pray.

Application: Meditate through the passage. Receive your portion, apply it personally. Pray it out.



Life Lessons from Meditation - Psalm 49

TAKE IT HOME

Psalm 49, David's message: If you take time to meditate on God's Word, you can have God's wisdom in your heart and in your mouth.

This is more like a Proverb, preaching good advice available to all men, rich and poor, those with or without influence in this life. David is saying that God's wisdom is available to all who will see it, who will take the time to understand it, and seed it in their heart. Give priority to meditation, it is of great value.

Context is important here as always in meditation.

v1 "Hear this, all peoples; give ear, all inhabitants of the world, v2 both rich and poor together."

v3" My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall give understanding."

This wisdom comes from meditation on God's Word.

v4 "I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will disclose my dark (hidden) sayings on the harp." God's Word is available, precious to some and discounted by others, seen and recognized only by those with eyes to see and ears to hear. What is in plain sight is hidden to the unbeliever.

Singing the Word can also be a form of meditation, praising God and getting the Word inside you.

v5 "Why should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity at my heels surrounds me?" David could be talking about the end of life for worldly people, when they must account for the multitude of their sins. It could be read for any troubled time when evil is called good and many are far from God.

v6 "Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, v7 none of them can by any means redeem his brother, not give to God a ransom for him –

There are many things money and influence can not buy, but that salvation gives freely.

v8 For the redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever – v9 that he should continue to live eternally, and not see the Pit." (not experience corruption in the grave, but experience resurrection)

David is a prophet, here he has prophetic insight that man continues to live eternally, that there is more to life than these few years on earth.

v10 “For he sees wise men die; likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, and leave their wealth to others.”

v11 “Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.” Cities, monuments, buildings, airports named after men as an honor in this life are often renamed when they are gone.

v12 “Nevertheless man, though in honor does not remain; he is like the beasts that perish.”
Things important in the world are not the things that are important in heaven.

v13 “This is the way of those who are foolish, and of their posterity who approve their sayings.” **Selah** (**Selah** is a music term to pause to consider what is being sung, and in this way applicable to meditation.)

v14 “Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall be consumed in the grave (**Sheol**), far from their dwelling.”

v15 “But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave (Sheol), for He shall receive me.” **Selah** David has revelation that though the body dies, the soul returns to God who made it. It could also prophetically refer to Messiah.

v16,17 “Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dies he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him.”

v18,19 “Though while he lives he blesses himself (For men will praise you when you do well for yourself), he shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.” (the light of eternal life)

v20 “A man who is in honor, yet does not understand is like the beasts that perish.”
This speaks of a man honored in life but having no spiritual understanding.

To the believer the Word of God is a treasure, the Scriptures are like a mine containing precious gold. To the meditator, insight and revelation are precious to be kept in the heart and to be drawn out as wisdom to carry you successfully through this life.

Application: Meditate on this passage and pray out the insights you receive. As you pray for the Church you are touching the believers throughout the world. You will be blessed as part of the Church.

Learn to expand your prayers, your blessings will increase not be diminished. As you give, it will be given to you... As you sow, so shall you reap. (Luke 6:38, Galatians 6:7)