

Hearing the Word

Jesus was “*meek and lowly in heart,*” yet He told the Pharisees the truth: “*If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, ‘We see;’ therefore your sin remaineth.*” It’s God’s good pleasure to reveal the mystery of the kingdom to us, but for those who won’t hear, He speaks in parables lest they would hear (Matt. 13:15).

First Corinthians 15:4 says: *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*

So someone can think he doesn’t need to hear (paragraph 1), or he can hear but believe in vain. In another category, a person is a believer but is carnal and so can’t learn: *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal.* (1 Cor. 3:1-2)

The condition is described again in Hebrews 5:11-14: *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

These three categories have similarities with the parable describing how someone receives the Word of God (Matt. 13). Some got nothing from it. Some believed it, but when it caused negative reactions they were offended by it. Others believed it, but their life styles choked it out. The Word warns us of heart conditions in which we flat don’t understand because no Word comes in or, if it does enough that we become believers, we are unteachable. *But he*

that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.