

Last Week's Topic: Hearing the Word, Planting the Seed of God's Truth

Not Hearing What is Contrary to God

God told Jeremiah to tell the people not to listen to certain people. How do you *not* listen? We can tell when someone is not listening to us if their attention is divided (or gone) or if they don't show the proper response connected to what we said. Sometimes someone hears us but doesn't show it by an outward sign. With no indication we can assume they have heard or presume they have not. On the other person's part, he may have given what we said no thought, or incorporated it in his own thoughts, committing to follow through on the response or taking it to heart. But if the person is told *not* to hear, then what? One cannot very easily hear or not hear on demand. If the person above didn't hear us, that's one thing. But to intentionally not hear calls his attention to the words which he is supposed to ignore.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:16,17)

Without going into the details of what was going on in Jeremiah's day, it was obvious who "hearkened not" because the prophets were telling them what to do in the perilous days ahead. If someone didn't take heed to them, they had hearkened not. (Suffice it to say, what that required was tremendous resolve.) But their actions played out rather than were a one-time action. In the New Testament it is described as reaping and sowing:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:2-8)

Why did God tell them to not listen? It was because the prophets were engaged in wishful thinking, not knowing they were making it up (Jer. 23:17,26). Jeremiah called them on it and they retaliated against him again and again.

In our day, it's easy to go with the flow, but what we are hearing, the conventional wisdom of the age, is not what God said. If we have what men say foremost in our minds, we'll get corrupted and not know it (Jer. 17:9,10), even when the effects in society start showing up (fornication, drunkenness, etc. (Gal. 5:19-21)).

God wants our best, but we don't give a chance when we don't turn off contrary messages.

Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:32)