

*And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Mk. 4:9).*

There are five human senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste) and I don't want to part with anyone of them! All are important for our physical well-being. However, 16 times in the New Testament Jesus gave the above phrase and He was not referring to one of our five senses.

When Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear," He was referring to a spiritual disposition that would allow not only the audible words to penetrate the ears but to also have the spiritual meaning penetrate the heart. It is entirely possible to "listen" to the teachings of Jesus by reading the New Testament and not "hear" the message. There are several ways in which this is done:

1. You listen in such a way as to try and disprove what is being said.
2. You listen in such a way as to rationalize the teaching so that you think it does not apply to you.
3. You listen with great skepticism to order to scoff at the entire message wondering if it is relevant or worthwhile.
4. You listen only to be gracious to the speaker, and when they are done you immediately forget what has been said.
5. Or you might even listen to check on grammar, word usage, and delivery not even caring at all about what was said, only how it was said.

Our Lord wants us to have our hearing checked so that when He speaks we not only "hear" the words as we read them but that we take them to heart. Do you need your hearing (heart) checked?

See you Sunday! -gls