

Listen to Him

Mark 9:2-9

Introduction

God says in **verse 7**, *“This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”* That’s what we want to unpack today.

Understanding Listening

Hearing

There is a difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is a passive activity, where we take in sound. We don’t have to be concentrating on it. We hear background noise without processing the information. If music is playing, I can hear it. But I can’t tell you what the song is unless I am listening.

Listening

Listening is an active exercise. It is when we pay attention to what we are hearing. In seminary, we did an exercise in active listening. A classmate related his life’s story to me; without taking notes, I later wrote what I remembered him saying. He then wrote a critique of what I had written, and these were handed into the professor. Then we switched roles and went through the process again. If my mind wandered while he was talking, I had blanks in his story or wrong information. Listening takes work; it’s not easy.

Why Do We Listen?

In the exercise, I listened because I was told to. Something makes what we’re hearing important enough to warrant us listening to it. We listen to music because we enjoy it. If a song is playing that I don’t like, I simply tune it out. I can still hear it in the background, but it’s just that—background noise. We listen to a speaker because of their authority.

Authority of Person

We listen to our parents (hopefully) because of the authority they have as who they are, and that God has commanded us to honor and obey our parents. God says, *“This is My beloved Son.”* We listen to Jesus because of who He is. He is God’s Son; He is God. We listen because of the authority of His person.

Authority of Office

We listen to teachers (hopefully) because of the authority they hold by reason of their office. In Confirmation, we learn that Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King. We listen to Him because of the authority of His office.

Authority of Knowledge

“When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen.” The authority they hold is due to their knowledge of finances and economics. As God, Jesus is omniscient, He knows everything. He knows the plan, and He knows what’s best for us. We listen to Him because of His authority of knowledge.

What Does He Say?

Of course, we are to listen to everything Jesus says. But, what's the first thing He says after the command to listen has been given? In **verse 9** *He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.* "Risen from the dead" points back to something Jesus had just told them before the Transfiguration (Read **Mark 8:31-33**). This was so important that Jesus went on to tell them two more times (**Mark 9:31; 10:33-34**). This is the mission of the Son of God. It is the heart of the Gospel. Listening involves a response to the information. What is our expected response to the message of Jesus?

The Great Commission

Based on His authority, our response is found in **Matthew 28:18-20** (Read **Matthew 28:18-20**). We call this the Great Commission. The commission is to go and make disciples. We do this to bring people into the kingdom of God. We do this through baptizing and teaching. We come to faith and are saved in Baptism. That is evangelism. Then our faith is built in teaching, which is discipleship. We are not expected to carry this out in a vacuum. God has given us the means of grace, Word and Sacrament. When we hear the Word and receive the body and blood of our Lord, he gives us forgiveness of sins and strengthens our faith. We listen to Him through the means of grace.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
