

HEAR MINISTRIES

SERMON FOR **SUNDAY, February 15th, 2026**

Text: Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon recorded by: Tammy Springer

Let us Pray: Father, we come this morning to hear Your truth and how it applies in our lives. Clear our thoughts and minds and open our hearts to receive what You have for each one of us. Help us to really LISTEN to Your word and not just hear words today. Holy Spirit lead, guide and direct us in all Truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

How good would you say you are at LISTENING? I mean, hearing someone speak is easy to do. Everywhere we go we can hear other people talking. But hearing the voices does not necessarily mean that we understand what is being talked about or that we even care what is being said. Most of what people hear goes in one ear and out the other.....it is ignored.

Matt was telling Amy about a very important thing that happened to her and his reply was, "yea...." and then she began to tell him about what was on her mind.....something that wasn't even related to what he was telling her! **Have you ever wanted to take someone by the shoulders and ask, "Are you listening to me???"**

Did you know the word LISTEN is mentioned in the Bible between 450-600 times, depending upon translations. In the older translations the word LISTEN is translated as HEAR....and yet in our culture today HEARING and LISTENING have two very different meanings.

How can we get someone's attention with our words so they will LISTEN instead of just HEAR? Let's look at how God got the attention of three of Jesus' disciples on a mountain top in our Gospel reading: *Matthew 17:1-9*.

About a week after Jesus clearly told His disciples that He would suffer, be killed and be raised to life (*recorded in Luke 9:22*), **Jesus took Peter, James and John up to a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying, His personal appearance was changed into a "glorified" form, and His clothing became dazzling white! THEN Moses and Elijah**

suddenly appeared and talked with Jesus about His death that would soon take place! How would YOU have responded?! I think these three disciples were in a state Shock! A state of fear and awe and amazement and wonderment.....but **it definitely got their attention!!** Then Peter, not really knowing what he was saying, offered to put up some shelters for them. This is probably referring to the “booths” that were set up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles when the Israelites lived in “booths” or little shelters for several weeks to remember their ancestors’ flight from Egypt. *(Some of the ladies learned about this in WOW Bible Study)* Just as Peter was telling Jesus what they ought to do, “a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. LISTEN to Him.’” (Matthew 17:5b) **If Moses and Elijah hadn’t captured their attention, I’m pretty sure that voice from the cloud made them stop and LISTEN!!!**

Where have we heard those words before? Well, when Jesus was baptized in the river by John the Baptist, the same voice from heaven was heard saying, “*This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*” (Matthew 3:17) **It’s that same voice of God. Only this time, God adds a command: LISTEN TO HIM!!**

The disciples IMMEDIATELY fell on their faces before this voice of the most High and Holy God!!! (Matthew 17:6)

I wonder, do we have this same “holy respect” for God and His Word today? It seems not. Rather, people today, even “Christians,” have lost the “holy reverence or ‘fear’ of God’s wrath!” In our culture, and even within the church, there is a growing attitude of apathy and indifference concerning Jesus and His Word. **There seems to be no concept of there being a consequence to disobeying God or living against His will!** Many demand what they call their “right” to live the way they want to, and they ridicule those who take a stand on God’s Word. Yes, every human being is free to do what they want to because God gave us a free will. **However, there are consequences to the choices we make and that’s where people have chosen to become ignorant and blind.** Out of sight, out of mind. If I don’t LISTEN to the consequences, then they don’t exist and I can go on doing whatever I want to.

God revealed Himself in the cloud with a loud voice as a reminder of His great power and might. It is a serious reminder that those who disobey His Law and do not repent under the blood of Jesus Christ will be punished!

I’m sure there are MANY, MANY people, myself included at times, who have sat through church on Sunday morning, heard the message, sang the words to the songs, and have NO IDEA what they heard or what it means in their lives because they weren’t LISTENING.

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to the Israelites in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. This is how He led them through the wilderness. God revealed Himself as a “consuming fire,” to remind those who turned against Him of the consequences.

Of course, the Israelites were sinful people and they often tested God’s patience. Three times in Romans chapter 1 the Bible tells us that when mankind “*suppressed the truth of*” God and His Word, “*God gave them over to the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.....He gave them over to their shameful lusts.....God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.*” (Romans 1:24-28) **God won’t force Himself on us.** If people don’t want to LISTEN to Him and follow Him, then He will move on to others who will. That’s what free will is. Free will is a very loving concept on God’s part, because He wants people to come to Him because they WANT to, not because He is making them. It’s a great system as long as we remember the consequences of our choices.

Yes, God is a loving, gracious and merciful God. **But we must not forget that He is also a might, powerful, Holy and righteous God!** No wonder the disciples fell on their faces when He spoke!!! That day they LISTENED!!!

This event of Jesus and the disciples on the mount with Moses and Elijah is known as the **Transfiguration of Jesus.** Transfiguration is a word we really don’t use today except once a year in church. The word “**transfigured**” translated from the Greek is the English word “metamorphosis” (also a big word), **which simply means a change on the outside that comes from the inside.** **When Jesus began to shine, it was because His divine (God-nature) was actually shining through His body and His clothes.** In this glory Jesus revealed to the disciples that He was not only human – He was also the Son of God. Jesus was on His way to Calvary to be crucified, and this event on the mountain was a sign that the suffering He would go through would ultimately lead to glory (Matthew 16:27-28) when the cross would be replaced by the Crown of Glory (Hebrews 2:9).

What can we learn from this event of Jesus showing Himself as true God and man in one to the disciples on the mountain top? Well, at least **three things:**

First, Jesus shines with the glory of the One True Living God, Yahweh. In the ancient times the Gentile nations had temples, priests and rituals, but only the nation of Israel had God’s glory dwelling in their sanctuary. When Moses dedicated the tabernacle, God’s glory filled the house! (2 Chronicles 7:1-3) The idols of the Old Testament were without life or

glory and could do nothing for eternity – just like idols today. **But the living God of Israel is glorious in everything He is, says and does!**

The tragedy is that, over the centuries, the people of Israel repeatedly sinned against the Lord and even put idols in His temple! Eventually, the glory of God departed from their temple and left completely.

The second thing we learn is that Jesus achieves a greater exodus or “exit.” When Jesus was shining with the Light of God, there were those two other men that also appeared: Moses and Elijah. **Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the Prophets, and in Jesus we see the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.** *John 1:17* says, “*For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ.*”

Jesus accomplished the most important exodus of all: delivering lost sinners from the power of darkness into His glorious kingdom!! In the days of Moses’ exodus in Egypt, it was the blood of the lamb that protected the Jews from death and allowed them to go free. Now it is the blood of God’s Lamb (Jesus Christ) that sets us free. Jesus became the prisoner in our place so that we might be set free.

Finally, Jesus ALONE provides salvation. The appearance of Mose and Elijah on the mountain top was brief, then they were gone and **the disciples saw “Jesus ONLY.” But that’s all they needed to see!** Moses and Elijah could do nothing for them – **but Jesus could!** On this mountaintop, Moses and Elijah were sent to encourage Jesus but not to remain on earth. Jesus was on His way to the cross and nothing could deter Him. Whenever we hear God’s voice to Jesus, it is affirming and encouraging of His mission to save people from eternal separation from God. But Moses and Elijah could not save humanity for eternity.

Now, if you are just HEARING my words, this is the point where you want to switch gears and LISTEN! There is NO SUBSTITUTE for Jesus and NO SUPPLEMENT to Jesus with anyone or thing. It is not Jesus PLUS Moses, because we are not saved by keeping the Law (Galatians 2:16-21). It’s not Jesus PLUS anything, because our religious works do not save us. They only give EVIDENCE that we ARE saved! There is NO SALVATION WITHOUT RECEIVING JESUS BY FAITH.

All of this teaches us to LOOK TO JESUS ONLY – to **“LISTEN TO HIM.”** (Matthew 17:5b). JESUS ONLY is the message of SALVATION and of Christian LIVING. Unless we make “Jesus only” the center of our lives, we can never enjoy the fullness of the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit was given to glorify Jesus (*John 16:13-14*).

God had men of old record this mountain top event so we could hear from **EYE WITNESSES** how they saw **with their own eyes** that Jesus was TRULY God and Man. **What about those today who say He was just a prophet? This event testifies to the fact that Jesus was MORE than a prophet.....He was, indeed, God Almighty taking the form of humanity to pay the price for our sin so we wouldn't have to suffer the way He did.**

Why is it so difficult for people today to LISTEN to God? Well, **noise and busyness** are the two biggest obstacles. We need to come apart as Jesus did to a quiet place for a time and just LISTEN to that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. It is the WORLD that values busyness, not God. The noise of the world is LOUD. Media, "entertainment," plans, goals, relationships, finances.....all this noise can crowd out the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit wanting to speak in our hearts.

Another thing that may keep us from LISTENING to God is the fear of **costly obedience**. **If we really LISTEN to what He is saying, then we have to make a choice about whether we are going to follow Him and obey or go our own way. The devil, the world, and our flesh can be big obstacles to obedience to God.** But we need to remember God will always give us just what we need when we follow Him: He will have our backs when we obey Him.

The disciples never forgot what happened that day on the mountain and, no doubt, that was the intention. Peter wrote in *2 Peter 1:16-18*, "*We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were EYEWITNESSES of His majesty. We, ourselves, heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Jesus on the sacred mountain.*"

The event of Jesus' transfiguration gets little attention except for Transfiguration Sunday. But, in reality, God's message of "LISTEN TO HIM" is the exact evidence we need that God DECLARED Jesus to be His Son, **God made man**. What more proof do we need?

Humanity has, indeed, seen God!!

Amen.