

Can You Hear Me Now

The phrase, “can you here me now” has become a popular quotation from a cellular phone commercial. When my nephew was small we would speak to him and every time he would say, “huh, what you say?” His response would make us giggle. We thought he learned this response from to listening my dad, who is hard of hearing say, “huh, what did you say?” To truly understand what someone is trying to tell you, first you must hear and then you must listen. The Old Testament uses the word shema over one thousand times. This Hebrew word can be translated to: hearken, hear or listen, which means to hear with attention or interest. The author wanted to relay the message, not to just hear the words, but instead, actually listen to what is being said. The Old Testament offers the readers warnings about not listening, and blessings for those who listen and obey. The message has not been lost by bad cell phone coverage. God has not repositioned himself asking, “can you hear me now?” He simply wants us to listen. For those who desire his blessing, shema...listen with attention or interest.

Mark 4:24-25

24 Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given[a]^a—and you will receive even more.

25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”