

BE A HEARER AND A DOER OF GOD'S WORD

Note to the speaker:

Help the audience to see the vital need to listen attentively to Jehovah's instruction, get the sense of it, and apply it. Emphasize the need to pay attention to how we listen when studying or attending meetings

"LET THE ONE WHO HAS EARS LISTEN" (6 min.)

Jesus repeatedly urged the crowds who heard him to *listen* (Mt 11:15; 13:9, 43; 15:10)

Many today have heard at least some of the Bible's message, but as in Jesus' day, relatively few pay attention

Such ones may be hindered by various prejudices, human philosophies, or distractions

Humbly listening to God's Word is of vital importance for salvation

We must take in knowledge about Jehovah God and Jesus Christ (Joh 3:16; 17:3; Ro 10:17)

We must look to God's Word for guidance in all matters (Mt 4:4)

HEARERS MUST ALSO BECOME DOERS OF THE WORD (7 min.)

It is not sufficient merely to take in Bible knowledge; we must apply what we learn **[Read James 1:25]**

With help from God's spirit, we can overcome strongly entrenched practices (1Co 6:9-11; w10 4/15 9 ¶11)

Appreciation for Jehovah and divine teaching provides motivation to make changes (Isa 48:17, 18)

[Relate an experience from the *Watchtower* series "The Bible Changes Lives"]

To enjoy Kingdom blessings, we cannot do merely what *we think* is pleasing to God (Mt 7:21-23)

Many who claim to follow Jesus do good works, but not the work assigned by God (cf 185-186 ¶10-12)

DOERS OF THE WORD SHARE THE KINGDOM MESSAGE WITH OTHERS (8 min.)

Jesus said that he came into the world to "bear witness to the truth" (Joh 18:37)

He was commissioned by his Father to proclaim and teach God's Word (Lu 4:18-21)

He went throughout Galilee and Judea teaching and making disciples of appreciative hearers (Mt 9:35-38)

Jesus commissioned his followers to preach the good news of the Kingdom and make more disciples (Mt 10:5-7; 28:19, 20; Lu 10:1, 2, 8, 9)

Early Christians taught the same Kingdom message that Jesus did (Ac 28:30, 31)

Jesus foretold that Christians would eventually preach throughout the inhabited earth (Ac 1:8; it-2 744)

Jesus compared those who hear the Kingdom message and respond favorably to "fine soil" (Mt 13:18-23)

Such ones 'bear fruit and produce,' that is, they also become Kingdom proclaimers

Sharing in the preaching of the good news is an essential part of doing God's will (Ro 10:13-15)

Today, Jehovah's Witnesses are fulfilling Jesus' command to proclaim God's Kingdom

This global "harvest" work is more urgent than ever before (Re 14:14-16; kr 88-89 ¶5-6)

"PAY ATTENTION TO HOW YOU LISTEN" (6 min.)

Despite the urgency of our times, it is possible to fall into the trap of becoming "hearers only" (Jas 1:22-24)

The apostle Paul warned Hebrew Christians about becoming 'dull in their hearing' (Heb 5:11)

Take advantage of all provisions Jehovah makes through his organization for our spiritual welfare

Jesus actively leads the Christian congregation; he uses "the faithful and discreet slave" to provide spiritual food (Mt 24:45-47; w13 7/15 20 ¶2)

Christian meetings and publications assist us to study God's Word so that we are "completely equipped for every good work" (2Ti 3:14-17)

Cultivate and maintain a regular program of family worship and personal study

By continuing to make full use of these provisions, we 'pay attention to how we listen' (Lu 8:18)

THOSE WHO APPLY GOD'S WORD WILL BE BLESSED (3 min.)

Jesus described the two outcomes facing all people today (Mt 7:13, 14)

Now is the time to act on Jesus' sayings **[Read Matthew 7:24]**

Those who do so find peace and true happiness despite living in a troubled world (w06 5/15 27-30 ¶4-16)

Obedience to God's Word brings Jehovah's approval and the prospect of life everlasting

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]