



Steward His Spoken Word

Focus God speaks to people who seek to hear Him with humble hearts and will faithfully act upon His spoken word.

Open Name a song you thought you knew the words to, but later discovered you were wrong. What were the right words, and what had you been singing instead?

Read God is always speaking in many ways. In Mark 4:24, Jesus warned His disciples, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you; and **to you who hear, more will be given.**”

Good stewardship means to manage someone else’s resources well. We tend to think of stewardship as managing our time and money, but Jesus’ warning in Mark tells us that we’re responsible to steward God’s spoken word as well. Those who listen to God, receive His word with humble hearts and act upon it, will hear God again. But James 4:6 tells us, “God resists the proud.” God will not continue to speak to prideful people or those who do not obey what He has said. God is speaking all the time, but the only ones who hear are those who tune in to the right frequency through humility and obedience.

If we’re going to hear God’s voice, we’ve got to listen and obey.

Talk

1. Have you ever thought of hearing the voice of God as stewardship? What principles of good stewardship come to mind that are applicable to hearing God’s voice?

2. Right before he instructed us to be careful *how* we hear, Jesus talked about the different kinds of “ground.” Read Luke 8:11–25, 18. What might each kind of ground look like in our culture? Which kind of ground do you think you are?
3.
 - a. If there is pride in our lives, God will stop speaking to us. Why is having a humble and teachable spirit a prerequisite to hearing God?
 - b. Is God being mean or punitive to stop speaking to those who refuse to hear or obey His word? Why or why not?
4. If we don’t hear and obey God when He speaks to us, what other methods of communication might He use to get our attention? What methods has He used at some point in your life?

Live

Answer the following questions with a partner, keeping in mind that God doesn’t minister guilt or condemnation, but He wants us to obey Him so we can live a blessed life:

- a. Are you a good candidate for God to speak to? Would you heed His voice? Would you obey His prompting?
- b. What was the last thing God told you to do that you didn’t do? How can you make that right?
- c. What, if anything, has God been telling you about your quiet time, relationships, marriage, children, work or finances? Have you done what He said? If not, what step(s) towards obedience will you take this week?

Pray

Pray for your partner. Ask God to forgive you where you have been prideful or have refused to obey His voice with a humble heart. Repent if you have been walking in your own way instead of obeying Him. Ask Him to help you to seek His voice and receive His word with humility. Pray that each of you will be found “faithful in little” so that you can receive much from God.