

## Hearing, Trusting, and Obeying Jesus

“Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘YOU SHALL KEEP ON LISTENING, BUT SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU SHALL KEEP ON LOOKING, BUT SHALL NOT PERCEIVE; FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART, AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.’ But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear” (Matthew 13:13-16 NASB).

- 1 Where the hearts of God’s children have become dull and their ears no longer hear His voice, pray that they will awaken from their slumber and respond obediently to His Word (Matthew 13:13-14).
- 2 The Hebrews saw the power of God as He delivered them from the Egyptians, yet they failed to trust Him (Deuteronomy 1:32). In remembering all that God has done for His church, pray that we will never lose our trust in Him as the One who delivers us from evil.
- 3 Knowing that eternal destruction awaits those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9), pray that every person in your neighborhood will repent, place their faith in Jesus, and be saved.
- 4 Our churches and our nation desperately need a healing touch from God’s hand. Pray that we will understand our need for revival and return to an attentive love relationship with Jesus (Matthew 13:15).
- 5 King Asa did right in the sight of the Lord and led Judah to put their trust in God when attacked by Ethiopia (2 Chronicles 14:2-11). Pray that God will give us godly leaders who will walk in righteousness and lead our nation to trust in Him once again.
- 6 Knowing that God chooses us before we choose Him, pray that a great many within our nation will be chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood (1 Peter 1:1-2).
- 7 In longing for another great spiritual awakening, pray that the heart’s soil of those who are lost will be fertile and receptive to the gospel. Pray that Satan will be bound from snatching away the seed sown in their hearts (Mark 4:15).
- 8 When the people of Judah feared for their lives, King Jehoshaphat exhorted them to put their trust in God (2 Chronicles 20:20). Regardless of the persecution that may come to followers of Jesus, pray that we will continue to seek God’s will and follow after Him with confident trust.
- 9 Pray that the members of your church family will no longer obey the lusts of their mortal bodies, but will present their lives to God as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6:12-13).
- 10 On one occasion, when His mother and brothers came to visit Him, Jesus told His disciples that His real mother and brothers are those who hear and obey the Word of God (Luke 8:21). Pray that your church family will listen to Jesus and truly obey His commands.
- 11 Pray that we will learn how to wait for the Lord, the One who is our help and shield. Pray that we will also rejoice in Him and trust in His holy name (Psalm 33:20-21).
- 12 Pray for the people in your community to understand that whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever does not obey the Son will not see life, because God’s wrath abides on him (John 3:36).



- 13** We can't see where the wind comes from or where it is going, but we can hear its sound. "So is everyone who has been born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Pray that the Holy Spirit will move powerfully through your community, drawing the lost to put their faith in Christ and His saving work.
- 14** Pray that the members of your church family will trust in the Lord and do good by delighting in His presence and committing their ways to Him (Psalm 37:3-5).
- 15** While under persecution from the religious leaders, Peter and the apostles said, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Pray that Christians today will be just as committed to obeying Jesus, even in the midst of attacks from family, friends, or authorities.
- 16** Those who walk under the influence of the devil have trouble hearing Jesus' words (John 8:43-44). Pray that everyone in your community whose ears are closed to the truth of the gospel will be set free from Satan's deafening lies and vain philosophies.
- 17** Pray that your Christian friends will trust in God at all times and pour out their hearts before Him, since He is a refuge for us (Psalm 62:8).
- 18** Knowing our need for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, pray that Christians in your community will walk in great obedience to God (Acts 5:32).
- 19** Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:3, 27). Pray that the members of your church family will be quick to hear and obey both the Spirit's voice and God's written words.
- 20** Pray that Christians will encourage each other to never place their trust in mortal man, but only in the One from whom our salvation comes (Psalm 146:3).
- 21** Pray for those around you who may be self-serving and disobedient to the truth, knowing that wrath and indignation will be heading their way (Romans 2:8).
- 22** Pray that church leaders will not harden their hearts and continually test God when it comes to hearing His commands and faithfully following Him (Psalm 95:7-9).
- 23** Just as Paul trusted God when he faced the kind of insurmountable trials that made him fear for his life, pray that we too will not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).
- 24** Knowing that God sometimes relents of the discipline we deserve because of our rebellion, pray that today's church will amend her ways and deeds, turning from sin to obey the voice of the Lord (Jeremiah 26:13).
- 25** Jesus taught, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and follow it" (Luke 11:28). Pray that the members of your church will not be a people who constantly hear God's Word but never apply it to their lives.
- 26** Pray that your Christian friends will trust in the Lord and prosper as they experience His deliverance. Pray that they will not arrogantly stir up strife or foolishly trust in their own hearts (Proverbs 28:25-26).
- 27** Remedial judgment often fell on God's people because they would not obey His voice (2 Kings 18:11-12). When God's discipline comes our way, pray that we will repent and obey His commands.
- 28** Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah" (Luke 11:32). Pray that our generation will be one that truly repents when God's Word is preached.
- 29** Knowing that the one who trusts in his riches will fall (Proverbs 11:28), pray that people in your community will put their trust in Christ alone for salvation and the grace needed for daily living.
- 30** Knowing historically that God blessed His people when they obeyed His commands, pray that the blessing of His manifest presence will once again be known throughout the church as we repent of our sins and obey Him wholeheartedly (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).
- 31** Jesus said, "The one who has ears to hear, let him hear" (Luke 14:35). Pray that when His words are preached at your church, spiritual ears will be opened and all will respond to the truth that is being spoken.