

Kings & Kingdoms #9  
**The Pitfall of Not Listening**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

2 Chronicles 33

**Discussion Questions**

1. Share about a time when you listened selectively, which led to consequences that could have been avoided if only you listened actively.
2. King Hezekiah established a godly nation. However, his son Manasseh, who became king after Hezekiah, did evil before God by re-establishing pagan worship which his father had already taken out. He did so much evil that God was provoked to anger (v. 33:1-9). Yet God was gracious and merciful to constantly warn him and the people of Israel to return to Him; but they still refused to listen to God. Oftentimes, God is very gracious to us for the wrong decisions we make, yet we also take for granted and do not intently listen to His instructions to us. What area or aspect of your life have you been refusing to listen to God?
3. There are 4 reasons why we don't listen to God's Word:
  - a. *We don't think it concerns us, so we are disinterested.* We don't think what is being taught is applicable to us since we already know it and got it all figured out. We don't feel it's going to help us. Hence, we selectively listen to what we only like to hear.
  - b. *The sounds of the world drown out the one voice we need to listen to.* We are often too occupied with so many noises that surround us, and eventually drown out the voice of God. We do not devote time of silence and solitude to be able to listen to God clearly.
  - c. *We are not focused on choosing to hear the voice of God through His Word.* We often are not intentional to choose to give time to hear from God's word. We are too distracted and do not give our undivided attention and focus.
  - d. *We listen to the wrong voice.* We listen to what we want to listen to, to the things that tickle our ears and make us feel good. We don't

like being corrected nor be rebuked by the truth.

Which among these 4 reasons do you tend to easily fall into? How do you think you could be more cautious and sensitive to avoid falling into it again?

4. **Consequences of Not Listening (v. 33:11).** Because King Manasseh did not want to listen to God, God allowed him to be captured by the Assyrians and taken to Babylon in such a humiliating manner, with hooks attached to his nose and being dragged along like an animal. When God extends His grace for so long and His people do not listen, time will come when He finally points out that listening to Him is a serious matter. There are consequences to not listening to God, and they are severe. Share about an instance when God allowed you to go through a consequence because you took for granted what pleased Him and chose not to listen. Do you think it is fair for God to allow severe consequences for not listening? Why or why not?
5. **Results of listening with humility (v. 33:12-13a).** King Manasseh learned to listen to God the hard way, by having to go through affliction before realizing the importance of listening to God. After enduring the consequences, King Manasseh finally had a change of heart. He called to God and humbled himself. As a result, he was led out of captivity and was restored as king over Judah. Sometimes, God gets our attention by allowing us to be in distress or in need so that we will listen to Him. And when we listen to God with humility, it results to salvation for our benefit. Listening to God is for our good. Was there time that you have experienced being spared from potential consequences, simply because you humbly listened to God? Share to the group.
6. **Listening must result in right actions (v. 33:13b-17).** King Manasseh finally came to the realization that the Lord is God. He acknowledged the authority of God over all, which showed that he finally listened to God fully. Manasseh then removed the false gods, cleansed the temple, did that which was appropriate in the worship of God, and commanded the people to serve the God of Israel. King Manasseh did not just listen; his listening resulted in the right actions.
  - a. We listen carefully when we acknowledge the authority of the person who is speaking. When we respect and in awe of someone, recognizing his authority causes us to listen carefully. And the same must be true when it comes to our listening toward the one true God. Unfortunately, many of us have a very low view of God and do not think that God deserves our wholehearted listening. Describe some actions which reflect a low view of God. What can

help us view God with higher reverence and awe?

- b. Listening without action is a useless task and a waste of time; and the response is not just any action, but the right actions. Doing must correspond with what was heard. What is the danger of stopping with just listening? How can we ensure that we do the right things with what we listen to?
7. ***Listening to the God who listens to us (v. 33:18-20).*** After King Manasseh learned his lesson, he returned to God and sought Him in all that he did. As an ending to King Manasseh's account, the chronicler honors the fact that Manasseh ended well by doing what was right in God's eyes, and also noted the important fact that God listened to King Manasseh. God is one who does not only desire for us to listen to Him, but also is one who listens to the prayers of His people and does so with mercy and grace. The fact that God does not tire of listening to us is all the more reason that we should not tire of listening to Him. Think about the times that you experienced God listening to your prayer. What does that tell you about God? How then should we respond to God, knowing that He listens to us?

### *Walk*

King Manasseh learned to listen to God the hard way. He had to first suffer severe consequences before realizing that listening to God is a serious matter. But when he returned and listened with a humble heart, God blessed and spared him from trouble. God desires the good of his people, and we benefit the most when we listen carefully to what God has to say to us. And this best happens when we become sensitive to God's voice through His word. But more importantly, our listening must lead towards doing the right actions. What is God telling you today? Is there any area in your life that God calls you to listen to Him more intently? What is the right action that God wants you to do as a result of your listening?

### *Worship & Prayer*

*Dear Lord, thank You for being a God who listens to us all the time. Thank you for never getting tired of hearing our concerns and sometimes, even demands. Even though we often take for granted and not listen to you very carefully, you have and still continues to extend your grace and mercy to us. We pray that we will gain a more attentive heart and mind as we seek to be more sensitive in listening to you. It is also our prayer that our listening will not just be a source of information, but one that will cause us to do the right action and lead toward life transformation. May you Lord grant us wisdom and humility in doing so and your Spirit be our constant source of strength. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*