

Ears to Hear

by Anton Bosch

This sermon delves into the importance of truly listening to God's voice without hardening our hearts, drawing parallels to the parable of the sower and the seed. It emphasizes the need to receive and obey God's word step by step, allowing it to transform our lives. The message warns against suppressing the truth, being turned to fables, and the consequences of not heeding God's voice.

Scripture: Luke 8:16, Luke 8:17, Luke 8:18, 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Timothy 4:4, Hebrews 3:15

Topics: "Listening to God's Voice", "Obedience to God's Word"

Description

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Transcript

So let's turn to the gospel according to Luke and chapter 8. Luke chapter 8 as continue our study through the gospel of Luke and we looked at some sections of this chapter last week looking at the sower and the seed and we missed out a bunch of verses in between and we're going to now deal with those verses but you need to bear in mind what we dealt with last week when we spoke about the the sower and the seed. So Luke chapter 8 and I'm going to read verses 1 through 3 and then jump down to 9 and then jump down to 16. So Luke chapter 8 verse 1 it came to pass afterward that he went through every city and village preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God and the twelve were with him and a certain woman who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities Mary called Magdalene out of whom had come seven demons and Johanna the wife of Cusa Herod's steward and Susanna and many others who provided for him from their substance.

Then verse 9 then his disciples asked him saying what does this parable mean meaning the parable of the sower and he said to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God but to the rest it is given in parables that seeing they may not see and hearing they may not understand and then verse 16 no one when he has lit a lamp covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed but sets it on a lampstand that those who enter may see the light for nothing is secret that will not be revealed nor anything hidden that will not be made known and come to light therefore take heed how you hear for whoever has to him more will be given and whoever does not have even what he seems to have will be taken from him and so

there's a there's a lot that we need to deal with in this in this section so I'm going to jump through the first few verses pretty quickly because we we need to deal with the rest of it in one go because it is all one it is all one unit and so it came to pass that he went through every city and village preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom we spoke about that two weeks ago that he is preaching the kingdom the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven and the twelve were with him so they're moving with him the crowd is changing all the time and remember there three or two different levels in the crowd there are those who are his disciples who are followers and then there are the hangers-on at the at the outside who really not part of of his following and then verse 2 says and certain woman who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities Mary called Magdalene out of whom had come seven demons and so we will come back to Mary Magdalene at another time and Johanna the wife of Cusa now the the interesting thing about these two about these two persons people that are mentioned here is that you have on the one side you have Mary called Magdalene who had had seven demons so she is really an outcast she is a demon she was demon possessed she may have had a questionable background she really wasn't a particularly nice person and then on the other extreme you have Johanna the wife of Cusa Herod's steward or Herod's servant so he is working in the palace he is a influential character and obviously he has some money because his wife has money and she is helping that using that money to support to support Jesus and the and the disciples so it's interesting again if we speak about the detail that Luke or the attention to detail that Luke does that he he has these two extremes those that come from Herod's palace on the one hand and those who are demon-possessed on the other hand and they're united in Jesus remember we spoke a few weeks ago that there is Matthew the tax collector who is on one extreme and then there are the Simon the zealot on the other extreme and they are both united in Jesus Christ and so again we find exactly the same picture here that while these people come from two different walks of life they are united in their following of the Lord Jesus I think it's also important to remember we spoke about the fact that Luke highlights the the minorities he speaks about the poor the outcast the woman and women really were not highly regarded those days and notice here that he spends two verses speaking about the woman who are following Jesus and actually specifying that it was the woman who was supporting him financially remember Jesus wasn't able to work he was preaching full-time he had worked for 30 years well from probably 12 or 14 until 30 years of age when he went into the ministry and in in in his in his father's carpenter shop and obviously it was later on his shop but now he's full-time for these three and a half years preaching the gospel and traveling throughout and getting ready to go to the cross and so he needs some kind of support financial support and not only is does he need support but the twelve disciples need support and you remember there was even a treasurer and his name was Judas and he carried the bag and from that we see on a different occasion that they use the money out of that bag to be able to buy food Jesus does not as some preachers try to say that Jesus was wealthy and you know he wore designer clothes and all this kind of nonsense he just had enough to to live and and and to meet the needs of his of his disciples now let's jump across into verse 8 so he tells them the parable of the sower and you need to keep in mind the meaning of the parable of the sower and we're going to come back to this again in a moment but the purpose of the parable of the sower is to say the sower sows the word the word falls into the soil of men's hearts and depending on the condition of that soil either produces nothing or produces fruit and I'm really summing it all up in a in a few few few words now in concluding the parable he says others fell on good ground sprang up and yielded a crop a hundredfold and when he had said these things he cried and here's the the key to this whole passage he who has ears to hear let him hear he who has ears to hear let him hear that was the purpose of the parable and that is the purpose of the second parable which we're going to look at the lamp on the lampstand right up to verse 18 I think it is yes all the way down to verse 18 in fact it continues in the next section as well which we'll touch on next week he who has

ears let him hear and obviously he's not meaning there are some people who don't have physical ears we all have ears the problem is we don't we don't hear I don't think it's something that you're familiar with but when I was growing up and probably had the same thing my mother would say do you have ears doesn't mean you have things on the side of your head it means are you listening can you can you hear what I'm saying and so Jesus is saying if you have ears to hear and obviously these are not physical ears these are spiritual ears to hear what he has to say he says then let him hear in other words there's a difference as we've seen before between hearing and hearing there's a difference between hearing the words and they don't register they make no impression upon us and hearing the words and they are life-changing and transformative these words are very important because ten times Jesus uses these words in the four Gospels ten times he says he who has ears let him hear as we'll see a little later on this is this is a important message that goes right back to Israel and that goes right through the Gospels and right through the epistles do we have ears to hear do we have ears to hear in verse 9 then his disciples asked him saying what does this parable mean and he said to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God but to the rest it is given in parables that seeing they may not see and hearing they may not hear or understand in Matthew the question is why do you speak to them in parables why don't you explain to them and Jesus and obviously that's the question because you can see that by the answer to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God now remember what a mystery is a mystery is not something that is unknown a mystery is something that was hidden in the Old Testament and is revealed in the New Testament and there are seven if I remember correct divine mysteries that are listed in the New Testament one of those mysteries is the mystery of godliness one of the other mysteries is the mystery of iniquity one of the other mysteries is that we as Gentiles should be partakers with the Jews of the salvation of God that was hidden in the Old Testament and remember that when Jesus ministers to the Gentiles during his ministry they question him because they it but they were it was it was it was hidden for them at that time but as time went on the truth became real and as Jesus gives the Great Commission in Matthew chapter 28 he says then go into all the world and preach the gospel and so the so the gospel is now made available that was hidden there was no way that any of the prophets in the Old Testament even though they prophesied these things could understand that Gentiles would be partakers with them of God's salvation they they they just didn't understand because it was hidden then but the mystery has been revealed now here is the parable and the parable is a mystery if you don't know the interpretation and so Jesus gives the interpretation but why does he not give the interpretation to the power of a to the Pharisees and he gives the answer to the rest is given in parables that seeing they may not see and hearing they may not understand now if you were a Bible scholar as most of his disciples were they would have recognized what Jesus is talking about Jesus is quoting Isaiah chapter 6 and you remember Isaiah chapter 6 is the chapter in which Isaiah sees the Lord and the Lord says who shall I send and who will go for us and Isaiah says Jeremiah send me and the Lord touches his lip with a coal off the altar and Isaiah is commissioned to go and God gives Isaiah the message and the message is not go and tell Israel that they need to repent the message is not to go and tell Israel that better times are coming but what is the message to Israel hearing you will not hear and seeing you will not perceive understand or see and so Isaiah's message is a message of judgment that's way back then God is saying I'm done speaking with Israel Israel does not want to hear my voice and therefore I will bring blindness upon them when did this blindness happen I've spoken about that in the past the blindness already happened at Mount Sinai when God wants to reveal himself to Israel and Israel turns away from God and creates a a calf and begins to worship that calf at that point already God says I'm going to deal with you and I'm going to carry you away beyond Babylon hundreds and hundreds of years in the future and according to Acts chapter 7 if you and he speaks about this in a lot of detail and so what is Jesus saying and I'm going to come back to

the application and the meaning for us but what is Jesus saying why does he speak to the Pharisees in parables simply because he says they don't understand and he says basically saying it doesn't matter even if I gave the interpretation they don't want to hear they don't want to understand and remember that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of the scriptures they had studied and they knew off by heart and yet they rejected him and even as he stood before them and revealed himself remember John says we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the father he came to his own but his own received him not and so Jesus comes and he reveals the father he reveals himself as the second person of the Trinity and Israel rejects him and Jesus says well it's a waste of time trying to speak to these people because they don't want to hear now obviously we understand that there were ones and twos in between them that that did get saved remember there was Nicodemus and there was Joseph of Arimathea they were two Pharisees and they they got saved in the end they were the ones who took the body off the cross and and embalmed it and so on but as a nation they could no longer hear and in fact they seal their own fate when they cry we have no king but Caesar the same cry that men are calling today they're rejecting the headship of Jesus Christ and they turning to other men for their salvation and for their hope but let's get back to this to this idea is this a new concept when Isaiah says or God says to Isaiah hearing they will not hear and seeing they will not see no in fact it goes right back to Genesis chapter 6 a hundred and twenty years before the flood already God says these very very significant words and this really is is the first time this is mentioned but the idea follows through and I'm going to just pick up I'm not going to go through all the scriptures because there are many scriptures that deal with this but he said my spirit will not always strive with man because he is flesh he says his days will be a hundred and ten other words he's got a hundred and twenty years and I'm going to wipe them out this principle that God by his spirit strives with man but his spirit will not always strive the time comes when God says I have spoken enough I'm not continuing to speak if you will not listen if you will not hear I'm going to withhold my voice and you remember there were times in the history of Israel when God was silent just when Samuel was it was this young boy in the tent in the temple it says that the word of God was scarce those days in other words God wasn't really speaking and then we know that right at the end at the end of Malachi between Malachi and Matthew there's the 400 years which we call the silent years in which God doesn't speak at all for 400 years God said nothing because he had done with speaking and eventually Jesus comes and Jesus begins to speak again well John the Baptist of course is the first prophet after Malachi and John heralds the Lord Jesus and they begin to speak for God again and so in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 and verse 9 and I'm going to pick up a few verses and and as I said these are just a key versus there are there are many others in the New Testament in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 9 the coming of the lawless one the Antichrist is according to the working of Satan with all power signs and lying wonders so he's going to deceive people he's going to deceive the whole world the whole world's going to follow him many of the so-called church is going to follow him and so how why do they follow him because he has power he assigns and he has wonders but they are lying wonders then he says in verse 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved I've spoken about this verse many times and yet it is such an important verse and I need to emphasize it again today because as we as we've come into 2020 this is becoming becoming more and more relevant than ever and that is that people will be deceived by the Antichrist people will believe that he is the man of God they will believe that he is the man who's going to save the world is going to be bring peace is going to bring prosperity is going to sort out whatever diseases and if it is come then I have to assume that they're going to be other similar diseases may be worse coming because we know that as we get into revelation into the tribulation and I don't believe that we go through the tribulation but as we go as we get closer diseases and pestilences are proliferate and they continue to multiply and so I I'm not I'm not prophesying I'm just speculating and I'm

saying we think we have a problem now there may be bigger problems coming and that's not a prophecy I have no scripture for that but based on understanding what's going to happen I think that this is just the beginning of the stuff that we will see as we go on so so so here comes this man and he says I've got the answer I'm going to fix these problems and he deceives the whole world into following him and how does he get to deceive the world it's not that he steps on this on the platform and suddenly people are just deceived now the problem began long before that the problem began when they did not receive the love of the truth so God has been speaking he has been speaking into the lives of those who are alive at that time he has been speaking for thousands of years through the through the from the book of Genesis right through to today God has been speaking he's been speaking through his word he's been speaking through his prophets he's been speaking through his spirit he's been speaking through his church he's been speaking through his preachers and so God is has been speaking but men loved the lie they did not love the truth and that's where the problem comes and see and here's that here's the the nub of this whole thing when we don't love the we are easily deceived you see because we're not very good at filtering truth from error the moment we filter truth now let me try and explain that when truth comes and the truth may be in the form of doctrine from the scriptures but invariably the truth has to do with God addressing my life God says you need to change you have problems called sin I said not me I'm pretty good you see that's the problem is that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and so we deceive ourselves into saying well that's not God's word for me and there will be some who are sitting here this evening just on the law of averages and there are those who will be watching the videos will be saying that's not me when in fact it may be you and when I don't receive that truth about myself I set up a filter so whenever I hear the Word of God I filter the Word of God because it's convicting me and I don't like to be convicted I want to feel good about myself that's why the feel-good preachers do so well because everybody wants to feel good about themselves but the problem is that once I set up a filter in order to filter out the truth and I said well I'm only going to filter out certain truths I won't filter out other truths no we don't have the ability to do that our filters are not very discreet either we receive the full revelation of God concerning Jesus Christ concerning his word concerning us ourselves or we receive nothing it really is an all-or-nothing thing we can't say well I'm going to receive some truth and I'm not going to receive others and so they did not receive the love of the truth it's not just receiving the truth but the love of the truth Lord I want to know speak to me during the week I had a phone call from a brother and he pleaded with me he said brother you need to speak to me you need to tell me the truth it's a brother in the ministry I know the brother he is sincere he wants to know the truth he loves the truth even if the truth hurts but unfortunately many others will say brother I want to know the truth but the moment you tell them the truth you become their enemies remember Paul says that concerning the Galatians is when I first came to Galatia he says you would have plucked out your eyes for me you thought I was even Christ but now that I've told you the truth have I become your enemy you see that's the problem as long as the truth is positive we want it as long as but the moment the truth is negative we don't want it and so they did not receive the love of the truth and that leads to them following the Antichrist now I don't believe that he is speaking here about just the world he's speaking here about Christians or so-called Christians who've been in church and who have heard the gospel have heard the Word of God may even have been religious may even have been part of a of a Bible believing Bible preaching teaching church but because they never wanted to hear the truth they're now open to deception for this reason I want you to see this this is this is important I'm going to go to Timothy and see exactly the same thing for this reason what reason because they did not receive the love of the truth because they did not receive the love of the truth God will send them strong delusion so it's not that the Antichrist deceives them well he does but it's God that sends delusion into their heart so that they will believe the lie and for kids this this is this is absolutely this is so serious this is so critical if we

do not receive the love of the truth God will send strong delusion into our hearts I have seen this hundreds of times you see a brother maybe even a minister fall into terrible sin getting to all sorts of terrible heresy and you say how could he have ended up in that place this is how he ended up in that place because way back when God began to speak truth to him and he rejected the truth and God says if you don't want the truth then I'll give you what you want I'll give you strong delusion that they should believe the lie notice not just delusion but strong delusion something that is inescapable we must hear God spoke to Israel God spoke to Israel through Moses through the pillar of fire through the clouds through them 10 miracles in in Egypt through the manna every day through the water from the rock God spoke to them day after day and they said we don't want to hear God's voice remember right back at Mount Sinai God wanted to speak to them personally and they said we can't hear God we can't understand him he's too terrible Moses you can ask him what he has to say and then you come and explain it to us at that point God already said if that's the way you want it remember they then put the veil on Moses's face as Moses then radiates God's glory and book of Corinthians says that God then takes that veil of Moses's face and he puts it on their hearts and he said my glory is not going to be veiled the truth will not be covered but if you don't want the truth I'll veil your heart and that's what happened with Israel right back then let's go to the last verse in Thessalonians verse 12 that they may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness we must believe we must receive the truth now look at 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 4 the verses before this speaks about itching ears and heaping to themselves preachers just like we have today listening to this one and that one filtering out what we want and what we don't want to hear but then he says they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables look at what he is saying they will turn their ears away so who turns their ears away the hearers the listeners who have itching ears and folks this happens in many many different ways but I'm not going to deal with that because we were going to run out of time but then look at what happens in the last part of the verse and be turned aside to fables so they turn their ears away from the truth then what happens they turn themselves to fables no something else turns them aside they will be turned can you see the difference they turn themselves away and then they are turned this is the principle that we see right through scripture that God confirms our decisions remember Pharaoh in Egypt Pharaoh hardens his heart and God says if that's the way you want it I will harden your heart so God confirms our decisions and he says to these people he says if you going to turn your ears from the truth not only will I allow you to turn from the truth but I will turn you to something else to fables stories I'm sorry to get back to fake book but I I cannot believe the nonsense that Christians are believing and propagating and sharing and promoting on fake book stories fables there is no truth in it whatsoever and yet they will propagate that and they will not even speak once about Jesus Christ he said well that's a harsh judgment it's not my judgment this is God's judgment how can people believe the nonsense that people are believing today concerning conspiracies and all of the nonsense that they believing because God has turned them aside to fables this is serious he said well brother that's too harsh that's not possible yes it is possible how can someone believe the nonsense that some people believe there is no logical explanation for it even when you prove to them that what they are believing is stories is fables is nonsense they still insist on believing it because something supernatural has happened someone has turned them and we we see this from Israel that God takes the veil puts it on Israel's heart we see this in Thessalonians because they was there's not receive the love of the truth God sends them strong delusion and so while this verse doesn't tell me who it is I can conclude from the other verses that this is what God this is not the devil we saw that it was the devil who turned them aside to fables no it is God who turns them to side to fables folk we must receive the love of the truth all right we have a long way to go let's go back to Luke 8 verse 16 no one when his little lamp covers with salt puts it under a bed but sets it on a lampstand that those who enter may see the light now the the the the shallow interpretation of this

verse is simply that we are lamps and we need to let our lamps so shine that people may see it but you must look at the context and I know it's hot and I know you may be a little tired but what is the context what is Jesus dealing with in this passage he is dealing with hearing he's not dealing with preaching the gospel he's dealing with hearing the soul speaks about hearing the previous verse well we've got a whole bunch of verses in between but let's let's find it seeing they may not see hearing they will not understand and then if we go right forward verse 17 nothing is secret I'll come back to that verse 18 therefore take heed how you hear so the verses before and the verses after is dealing with hearing so the lamp must be speaking about hearing so what is that got to do with hearing I don't believe he's talking about the lamp and while that may be a good analogy of saying we need to let our light shine as far as the world is concerned but how does this apply to hearing well look what he what he says no one when he has lit the lamp covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed when people do not receive the truth what are they doing with the truth they are covering it they are hiding it John says because they love darkness rather than light Romans chapter 1 the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who do what who suppress the truth in unrighteousness or hold the truth in the King James so they have the truth but what do they do with it they put it under a vessel they suppress it they don't want to know the truth and if you're feeling convicted tonight don't put the light under a cover don't suppress the truth don't hold it under but say let me let me let me lift up the truth of God's Word in my life that it might light up my life that I might be able to walk in the light so no one when he has lit a lamp covers it with a vessel puts it under a bed he says that's stupid and yet that's exactly what we do God shines a light upon an area in our lives some area of sin some area of whatever and we cover it no he says we need to set it on a lampstand so that we can see all right verse 17 nothing is secret that will not be revealed nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to the light I believe what Jesus is saying and I'm going to just go over this very very quickly because I want to get to the last verse what he is saying here is that the way that you have listened is going to be revealed you see you see you may be able to fool me by nodding and saying amen I'm not hearing of many amens tonight but but God is hearing God is watching and it's going to be revealed in fact here's here's the scary thing that this this meeting tonight every time you have been under the sound of God's Word every time you've opened God's Word will be called to the day of judgment as a witness against you it's going to be revealed God will say I spoke to you there and there I told you to change I called you to repentance I asked you to do something and you suppressed my word you took the lamp and you put a bushel over it you put a bucket over it so that the light wouldn't bother you but we need to allow the light to bother us so that it can bring us into into all truth verse 18 therefore so you see the connection nothing that a secret will be revealed therefore in other words the way that you hear the way that we listen will be revealed that's scary because we say well you know nobody knows that I'm not listening nobody knows that I'm rejecting the conviction that's come by the Spirit or through the Word no it's going to be revealed therefore take heed how you hear now we need to take heed to what we hear we've spoken a lot about that in recent recent months but he's not talking here about what you're listening to he's talking about how you're listening how you're listening are you listening with a plowed field but a heart that has been softened where the stones have been thrown out where the weeds have been killed so that when the seed falls into my heart it can produce fruit see the connection back to the parable how are we hearing are you hearing the Word of God with a tender heart are you hearing the Word of God without preconceived ideas without prejudice I remember I spoke about Samson Samuel a little while ago earlier in the message and you remember Eli says to Samuel when you hear the voice say speak Lord I'm listening speak Lord I'm listening I want to hear your voice and here's the here's the conclusion of tonight and this continues in the next in the next section but whoever has to him more will be given and whoever does not have even what he seems to have will be taken from him so

what does that mean what is he talking about talking about listening about hearing whoever has how do we have hearing how do we have his word your word have I hidden in my heart lest I sin against you when we treasure his word remember again Samuel it says that he did not let a single word of God fall to the ground he treasured he grabbed hold of every word of God and he hid it in his heart he grabbed hold of it any and he clung to it with all of his life no one day becomes one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament whoever has more will be given as we respond to God's voice as we respond to his call upon our lives he gives us more revelation he gives us more direction he speaks to us more and more and here lies the difference between some Christians who never grow and others who grow at a rapid rate the ones who never grow is because they exactly what he says at the end of the verse even what he seems to have will be taken from him you see here's how it works in practice God speaks to me about something and I say well order it's not convenient I'll speak to you some other time about this thing and then the next day we say well God I want you to speak to me God says well I spoke to you yesterday about that other thing no no no Lord I don't want to hear that I want I need a new word today God says no I spoke to you and God does not move on to the next word until we've heard the first one I've spoken before about schools I believe all the kids are now going to the next grade whether they passed or didn't pass God doesn't move us to the next grade until we pass the first grade and if we don't pass the first grade we don't listen to the first thing he told us he's never going to tell us anything more until we deal with that issue and people tell me I can't hear God God doesn't speak to me well God may have spoken to you 20 years ago and you refuse to hear him then and God is saying come back to what I spoke to you about then then maybe I'll give you some more but this is this is the reality this is the truth whoever has to him more will be given and the faster we obey his word because you see this is not about just receiving and treasuring up but it's obeying the word the faster we do what he tells us to do the faster he gives us the next step it's like that I don't know what they call that game treasure hunter or whatever it is on TV you you you go and you find a clue and then once you get that clue you have to find the next clue and then they give you the next one they're not going to give you the end result without finding each one along the way and that's the way God deals with us he gives us one step at a time line upon line precept upon precept here a little there a little and as he gives us the first line we obey that he gives us the next line we obey that he gives us the next line and we grow and we receive more and more and we say well I don't understand how can how can some brothers grow the way they do this is how they grow why do others never grow this is how they never grow and for looking at at Israel and it's interesting that Jesus feels the need to speak this not just to Israel but to the church because this is given to us in the church it must have been a hard thing for God to say I'm not going to speak anymore I'm done I'm through I'll find other people who want to hear and that's why he came to us as Gentiles because Israel would not hear you know as a as a shepherd the hardest for me the hardest thing for me there are many hard things I spoke about that on Thursday but the hardest thing for me is a shepherd is to watch people continue in their foolishness when you have the answers but I cannot correct them because they don't want to listen probably one of the words one of the sentences that inner hears from me more than probably anything else maybe not as much as where's the tea is I can't help him I can't help him speaking of people in the church why can't I help him because he doesn't listen he doesn't want the truth when I bring in the truth he will return it back on me when I bring the truth he will find excuses and there are people that I know the answers to your problems I don't have all the answers but I know some I can't help you because you're not listening and God can't help you because you're not listening you you you you made up your mind and God says that that which is there he says I'm going to take it away remember the seed that fell on the roadside why on the roadside because the road was hard and Christians hearts are hard and the seed lies on the surface and the devil comes and he snatches it away even what he seems to have will be taken from him sorry I lied I said it was the last verse

here's the last verse 3 Hebrews chapter 3 verse 15 three or four times in Hebrews 3 and 4 we find these words while it is said today if you will hear his voice harden not your hearts as in the rebellion you see the connection with the soil the hard road on which the site seed could not penetrate and if you've heard me on this before forgive me but I want you to pay attention to these little words remember we emphasize these little words today when you hear his voice that what it says no today if you will you see the hardening does not happen once I've heard the word so I say when I hear his voice don't harden his heart no he says if you before you even hear if you want to hear his voice don't harden your heart but come with ground that has been plowed and dug up and that is soft that has no stones that has no weeds and that is ready to receive with meekness the engrafted word that we may grow thereby father we pray that you would help us Lord it is so easy for us to harden our hearts just because it convicts us because it tells us what we don't like to face we don't want to hear and Lord I pray that we may not be like Israel that we may not be like the many Saul king of Israel that once had a soft heart towards you and then just turned against you but Lord that we may be those who are like Samuel eagerly receiving your word whether it's good or bad whether it makes us feel good or makes us feel sad Lord help us to be soft help us to be ready to receive your word Lord help us to not be so defensive about our sin help us Lord not to find so easy easily find excuses like Adam and Eve but Lord let's be like David and when we are convicted we will repent Lord because we don't want to be turned aside your fables we don't want to be like Israel that you cease that you cease speaking to Lord we want to hear your voice and I pray Lord that you would create within each one of us and within us as an assembly a willingness to receive and to hear your word I pray this in Jesus name I pray that you would go with us keep us and protect us and bring us together again safely on Thursday I pray this in Jesus name amen

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