

Dull Of Hearing

3-2-25

Hebrews 5:11 (ESV)

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

The message this morning is a warning to those who have become “dull of hearing” to the things of God. Hebrews admits that it has some hard things to explain, but part of the problem is that the people are not in a position to receive it. This may be due to loving the world, blinded by sin, or just lazy. However, it is noticeable that there is a direct relationship between people’s spiritual condition and their understanding. Thus, the admonition.

Hebrews 5:12 (NIV)

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again.

These people should be teachers, but they need to be repeatedly taught the elementary truths of God’s word. There is a growth process for all believers with various grades of understanding. Notice this physical parallel to the spiritual.

Hebrews 5:12-13 (ESV)

^{12b} You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled (**inexperienced**) in the word of righteousness, since he is a child (infant).

“Milk” stands for elementary instruction. “Solid food” is the more advanced instruction. The Christian occupied with elementary truths is spiritually “still an infant” and must be treated as such. He is unskilled without experience. Always in the Christian life, one either moves forward or slips back. It is almost impossible to stand still.

1 Corinthians 3:1–2 (ESV)

¹ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.

No-one wants to remain a perpetual child. We all should seek Solid Food and Maturity. The experienced Christian knows that he needs strong meat to attain to this kind of maturity.

Hebrews 5:14 (ESV)

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

The mature who chew on the solid food of the Word of God develop their Powers of Discernment. This literally means, their ability to perceive, their capacity to understand the real nature of any situation is they face.

#1 This only comes by being **Trained through the Solid Food of the Word of God. This requires effort on our part. Trained literally means to exercise. We get our English word gymnastic from this Greek word. We must dedicate ourselves to the Word God.**

#2 For the mature our training is accompanied **By Constant Practice meaning a habit developed through repetitive experience. *This word occurs only here in the NT.* Spiritual maturity comes neither from isolated events nor from a great spiritual burst. It comes from a steady application of spiritual discipline.**

#3 The mature who live off the steady solid Food of the Word of God learn **To Distinguish** good from evil. Distinguish means the ability to decide, the ability to make decisions. This is another word without parallels in the NT used here indicating the ability to make a good decision and distinguish between good and evil. This skill shows the difference between the mature and the immature.

Notice that verse 14, says, “Constant practice to distinguish.” The word “to” literally means side by side. Constant practice goes side by side with being able to distinguish or decision making.

Consuming the Solid Food of the Word of God we must also by grow by constant practice and live out the Word of God. **We should be teachers.**

Don't be intimidated: 1-Your story-last week the best service we had in 5 years. 2-The most powerful message in the world is Jesus crucified. The Apostle Paul was the greatest theologian in all of History. Listen to what he said.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.