

Silent and Listen

Silent and Listen

- Have you noticed that the words “silent” and “listen” have the same letters, arranged to create two words that share a similar purpose?
- Ecc. 3:7ff - “A time to keep silence, And a time to speak”

Silent and Listen

- One must keep silent in order to listen
 - Acts 15:12 - “Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.”
 - 1Sam. 15:16 - “Then Samuel said to Saul, Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night. And he said to him, Speak on.”

Silent

- Grave harm can be done and great opportunities can be lost when one is silent when he ought to speak
 - 2Kings 7:9 - “Then they said to one another, We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household.”

Silent

- Grave harm can be done and great opportunities can be lost when one is silent when he ought to speak
 - Esther 4:14 - “For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
 - Psalm 58:1 - “Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones?”

Silent

- Great harm can be done when one speaks when he should remain silent
 - Job 13:5 - “Oh, that you would be silent, And it would be your wisdom!”
 - Prov. 10:19 - “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”
 - James 1:19 - “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath”

Silent

- Men greatly err when they misunderstand the silence of God
 - Psalm 50:21 - “These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes.”

Listen

- There is a time to listen
 - Deut. 7:12 - “Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.”

Listen

- It matters how you listen
 - Luke 8:11-15, 18 - “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience... 18 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.”

Listen

- And a time to refuse to hear
 - Deut. 13:1-3 - “If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' -which you have not known-'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”
 - Prov. 20:19 - “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”

Do Not Listen When The Speaker Is:

- lying
- gossiping
- teaching error
- back biting
- railing
- murmuring
- flattering
- fawning
- persuading others to sin
- expressing ignorance
- boasting
- using filthy speech
- and any other sins of the tongue

God's Silence

- What does God's silence say?
- Is that silence permissive or prohibitive?

God's Silence

- God's silence is prohibitive
 - Lev. 10:1-2 - “Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”
 - Gen. 6:22 - “Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”
 - 2Sam. 7:1-7

God's Silence

- Silence prohibited the church at Corinth from calling themselves Paulites
 - 1Cor. 1:12-13 - "Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

God's Silence

- Silence prohibited Jesus from being a priest under the Law of Moses
 - Heb. 7:14 - “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”

God's Silence

- Silence prohibited the exaltation of angels to positions of divine authority
 - Heb. 1:5, 13 - “For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are My Son, Today I have begotten You? And again: I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son? 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?”

God's Silence

- In each of these examples God's positive commands limit what may be done.
 - “This do in remembrance of me.”
 - No further explicit prohibition is necessary.

God's Silence

- Man is not authorized to do anything he wants to do in worship
 - John 4:24 - “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- Worship becomes meaningless when we elevate human tradition to doctrine in worship
 - Matt. 15:9 - “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

God's Silence

- Has God ever spoken a word about instruments? What did he say about music?
 - Eph. 5:19 - “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”
 - Col. 3:16 - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

God's Silence

- Waitress - "What do you want for breakfast?"
- You - "Eggs and toast"
- She brings eggs and toast and steak and salad and a birthday cake and turnip greens.
- You exclaim - "Wait! I didn't order this."
- She answers - "You didn't say you didn't want this. I thought you might like this for breakfast."

God's Silence

- We cannot approach God in worship with our own definition of righteousness
 - Rom. 10:2-3 - “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Be Silent and Listen When God Speaks

- Job 40:1-5
- Job 42:1-6
- Hab. 2:20 - "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."