

## Mark 4:24

*Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.”*

When I was reading today in the book of Mark, one phrase stood out to me that Jesus said, which is in today’s verse that says, “**Take heed what you hear.**” And it made me think about what we hear throughout the day, be it on TV, in movies, the music we listen to, what our coworkers are saying, and even our friends and family and the things they say. And there is a difference in what your coworkers, friends and family will say based upon if they are a believer or not. If they are believers, then you should not expect to hear anything derogatory, or defaming or hurtful towards others. But if they are not believers, then you can rest assured that you can hear almost anything coming from their mouths.

But we need to be careful to what we hear or listen to all day, and unless we put what we hear through the filter of God’s word, we could be walking around all confused, trying to live a Christian life, yet stumbling all the time, because we are polluting our minds with things of this world, while trying to process it all. And many will try and combine the things of this world with the things of God, so they end up with a mish mash of wrongful thinking, and even wrong advise or counsel.

In the NLT it puts today’s verses this way:

† **Mark 4:24-25 (NLT2)** *Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”*

Reading that, it may be time to start actually listening to the words of those songs you are listening to, or paying closer attention to the TV shows, or movies and YouTube videos etc. that you watch and what they are teaching you. Because didn’t Jesus just say that “**The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given**”

Maybe you struggle with certain sin(s). Could it be because of what are you listening to? “**The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given**” If we listen to songs of this world that talk about things that a Christian should not be doing or even joining in singing about them ourselves, or watch TV shows or movies or YouTube videos that are full of sin, then no wonder we struggle, because we are filling our minds and our hearts with things of this world.

But if we want help with overcoming those struggles, then we need to remember what Jesus said, which is, “**To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given.**”

Notice Jesus didn't say that those who listen to the worldly things will gain more understanding, because Jesus doesn't want us to have understanding of the things of this world, but rather in Heavenly things, the things of God, which we get from His word.

But Jesus also warns us that, ***“But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”***

So, yeah, you may go to church on Sunday, read a devotional like this once in a while, but 99% of the time you are actually filling your mind with things of this world instead of the things of God; therefore, as Jesus just said ***“even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”***

Why? Well think of the time we spend in the word as a small one carat diamond. If we put this diamond on the ground, then have a huge dump truck full of sand, dump all it's sand onto that diamond, it would take you forever to find that diamond again, because the diamond is the size a large grain of sand and sifting through that massive amount of sand would make it very hard to find that one little nugget of beauty, that is the diamond.

That's what happens when we just get one little nugget of God's word once or twice a week. We allow the things of this world to bombard that little nugget of wisdom from God's word and actually hide it so that it really has no affect on our life, because we are full of things of this world and not the things of God, just like the diamond and dump truck full of sand.

I don't know about you, but I would rather have a dump truck full of diamonds then one full of sand. Just like I would rather have my heart, mind and spirit full of God's word and not the things of this world.

- † **Proverbs 2:9-11 (NLT2)** *Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe.*
- † **Mark 4:18-19** ***Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.***
- † **1 Corinthians 7:31 (NLT2)** *Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.*
- † **Colossians 3:5 & 7 (NLT2)** *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.*