**Recap:** Anyone has the gift of being able to receive wisdom from the Lord…

**How to hear God’s voice (Part 2)**

**Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

A couple things to point out here…

* When Jesus knocks, He uses His voice
	+ “Behold, I stand at the door and **knock**. If anyone hears **My VOICE”**
* Also, when He knocks, not everyone hears Him or opens up to Him.
	+ So God can be speaking, and you not hear Him.

**Matthew 13:13-15** “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and **hearing they do not hear**, nor do they understand. **14**And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive; **15For the hearts of this people have grown dull.** ***Their* ears are hard of hearing,**
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears,
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.”

* So sometimes, while we’re hearing, we’re not actually hearing.
	+ Some of you are doing that right now…
		- There’s someone watching online right now… Probably cream cheesing their bagel thinking about whatever… You know who you are.

See, here in Matthew, God almighty was speaking, and they weren’t hearing.

**STORY:** Emma plugging her ears during worship…

Today I want to talk about 5 ways we plug up our ears from hearing.

1. Distractions

We’re such a distracted culture.

You can’t give your attention to multiple things at once…

**STORY:** Dad always would rewind it if someone spoke.

**STORY:** Marlene tries to talk when we watch TV.

**STORY:** Started to turn off the radio when I drive… The Lord said about a palm reading place “You know you have authority over that place”… Prayed and it closed down a few weeks later.

* I had drove by that place all the time. I be that wasn’t God’s first time trying to tell me that. I just finally turned off the noise.
1. Unforgiveness

**Matthew 6:14-15** “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

1. Conflicting voices

What voices are you listening to? Listening to all different kinds is just confusing.

**Deuteronomy 22:9** “You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled.”

This is why the bible says:

**Proverbs 4:23** “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.”

1. Pride

**-James 4:6 (PARTIAL)** “God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

* **Example:** Trying to push a car… Not just not participating, but pushing against it.

Let me close with way number 5… (Someone can come up and play)

1. Your heart has grown dull

**Matthew 13:13-15** “Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14**And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
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So that I should heal them.”

Some of you may not have even realized it, but your heart has grown dull… And the Lord wants to heal you.

**PRAY**