

OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION

JANUARY 17, 2021

Prelude

~The instrumental cue to gather and prepare for worship

Welcome - Robby Baxter, Assistant Pastor

***Call to Worship - Psalm 81**

~God's invitation for us to engage in worship in the Holy Spirit

***Weekly Congregational Response**

~Our humble response to God's call to worship

***Prayer of Invocation**

~The giving of thanks for God's promised presence and work among us

Song of Preparation and Praise - *God Be Merciful to Me

~Our celebration of God as our good and faithful Abba Father

***Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon - James 1:19-25**

~Our admission of our failures and need for Christ as Savior

***Prayer in Response to Our Assurance of Pardon**

Song of Comfort - *Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)

~Our praise of Jesus as our Savior

Pastoral Prayer

~Our prayer for the church gathered near and far

Sermon - Wise Listening

Proverbs 15:31, 18:2, 18:13

Song of Response - *Pensive, Doubting, Fearful Heart

~Our commitment to apply God's Word in and through our lives

***Announcements**

~Weekly opportunities to live out the Word read, confessed, prayed, sung, and preached

***Benediction - Colossians 1:9-10**

~God's parting blessing as we are sent out on His redemptive mission

*Stand

“WISE LISTENING”

PROVERBS 15:31, 18:2, 18:13

CAMERON BARHAM

Key Truth: Wise listening serves as the critical first step to receiving God's wisdom and being able to apply it to loving Him and our neighbors as ourselves.

Introduction:

Q: What is Jesus' example to us in terms of wise listening?

“Throughout the Bible listening is the central act of the people of God. They are those who are gathered and formed by his voice and held together by his word. They hear his promises and judgments, instructions and warnings, reassurances and exhortations.... You become a disciple by hearing. Listening is the first act of discipleship....”

Adam S. McHugh, *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction*

Proverbs 15:31: Listen to Life-Giving Reproof and Dwell Among the Wise:

“By nature we are unteachable. But the Lord gives humility and self-knowledge. We become teachable, and light pours in. We learn the meaning of words that we had previously only known by name. The way we receive a rebuke tests our character. It reveals if we possess the graces of humility, sincerity, and self-knowledge.”

Charles Bridges, *Proverbs*

Q: How do you respond to Biblical reproof? Do you immediately get defensive or prayerfully consider the weight of the words and context of delivery before responding?

Proverbs 18:2, 13: Fools Express Their Opinions and Fail to Understand:

“I suggest we make it our aim to listen to, not listen for. In listening for, we are listening like a prosecuting attorney, trying to uncover a hidden motivation, catch the person in a contradiction or find something to confirm our suspicions. We are setting the trap, poised to say “aha!” at any second.

To listen for is deconstructive: we are breaking people down into parts. We listen to collect data. We reduce people to issues or categories or positions in a debate. We may view them as problems to be solved, issues to be diagnosed, shortcomings to be corrected. We listen for inroads or openings to spring our thoughts on them. We are in danger of turning people into mere foils for our opinions, their words simply setups for our musings.”

Adam S. McHugh, *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction*

Q: What is the goal of most of your communications with other people? What does the speed, tone, content, and context of your response communicate about your value of the person and the topic?

Application:

Proverbs 15:31, 18:2, and 18:13 teaches us that:

- a wise disciple receives Biblical reproof in humility as a gift from the Lord
- a fool fails to listen and understand causing division and shame

Benediction: *Colossians 1:9-10*