

Jesus tells His disciples 2 essentials of effectiveness: Hearing and preaching.

I. THE ESSENCE OF PREACHING

A. The essence of preaching is hearing from God

1. *V27 What I tell you in the dark... What you hear in the ear...*
 - a. Not human opinions/personal preferences – a word from God!
 - b. Not borrowed from someone else – what YOU hear!

B. Jesus tells us how we hear from God: Seek Him/listen to Him

1. *Tell in the dark...*this is personal; Seeking God on your own – away from people

- a. Praying (seeking a word from God) and studying (finding a word from God)

2. *Hear in the ear...* Receiving impressions from God

- a. There are times a word/phrase/a scripture will pop into my mind –

1. I will act on that impression: Go and search that out/preach what is in there

C. Jesus is telling His disciples how they can have the most impact in their labors

1. If you will declare what is personally revealed to you – it will have power/more impact

- a. The temptation is to borrow from better preachers/more experienced

1. *Many times I'm amazed at what God does through a sermon I wasn't excited about: BUT IT WAS MINE!!*

II. THE FEAR FACTOR

A. Jesus tells us one hindrance to preaching is fear

1. *V28 do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul ...*

- a. Not people in general: Connected to hearing from God/preaching what God says

B. The problem is that some people will not appreciate some messages!

1. *1 Kings 22:8 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."*

- a. Sinful will not appreciate conviction

- b. Religious will not appreciate the supernatural/commitment

- c. Greedy will not appreciate money sermons

C. They will let you know: By their attitude/words/withholding

1. *Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

- a. *Gainsayers: To oppose oneself/decline to obey him, declare oneself against him, refuse to have anything to do with him*

2. This involves pressure: Not content to simply disagree internally

- a. They will try and pressure you to change your mind – change your actions

1. Faces 2. Words 3. Withholding \$

3. Try and intimidate you into not saying that

- a. Fear: You will displease/you won't make it financially/they will ruin the church/get you into trouble

1. Get you to go along with them – become like them!

III. OUR TRUE AUDIENCE

A. What will help us stay on track is recognizing our true audience

1. The most important person who hears us is God: An audience of one

2. People can only do so much to/for us – in a limited time frame

- a. But God has your life/ministry/church/your soul in His hand

1. *V28 But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

3. We preach to please Him!

- a. *1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*