

A FAMINE OF HEARING THE WORDS OF THE LORD

AMOS 8:1-14

Text: Amos 8:11

(Amos 8:11) "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:"

Introduction:

Amos 8:11 speaks of God sending, "A famine in the land....of hearing the words of the Lord." Since the people of Israel were not willing to receive the Word of God, there was a spiritual famine that existed in the land of Israel.

We hear in the news and read in magazines about food famines in various spots around the world. There are places where everyday people wonder when they will ever have sufficient food. It is tragic to see a famine of food, but the most serious famine the Christians faces is that of hearing the Word of God.

It is important that we have the right attitude and relationship to the Scriptures. Since the days are so

evil, we must feed on the word of God. You should know its doctrines, history, types and other things concerning the wonderful Word. Beware of letting the world system dull your appetite for spiritual things.

The Lord himself made reference concerning how we listen and hear.

(Luke 8:18) "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

How should we listen?

1. HEAR THE WORD ABSORBINGLY.

The Bible says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light" (Psm.119:130).

A. We should allow the Word of God to come into us and engross our thinking.

B. Since it is God's Word & His Word is Truth, you should allow it to occupy and fill your thought life.

Illustration

I have seen some people who were so absorbed in a newspaper article; thunder would not even faze them.

C. Too often the Bible flows upon us without ever penetrating into the depths of our being.

Illustration:

For medicine to help you with a physical condition, it must be absorbed by the human body. If God's Word is going to do what He wants it to do, you must soak it up like a sponge does water.

2. HEAR THE WORD OBEDIENTLY.

We should always hear the Word with a desire to obey.

The Bible reminds us in Jn. 7:17, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

A. The way to know truth is to be willing to obey it, if God will just reveal it unto you.

B. God reveals truth more frequently to those who are willing and ready to obey.

3. HEAR THE WORD CAREFULLY.

- A. One should plan to get a good night of rest before church the next day.
- B. The Bible deserves our undivided attention.
- C. It is so easy to become distracted by things going on in a service rather than completely focusing our attention on God's Word & Truth.

4. HEAR THE WORD TRUSTINGLY.

- A. You can without any reservation or hesitation trust God's Word.
- B. Man's word often may not mean very much, but the Bible says in Ps 138:2, "Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Trust His word!

5. HEAR THE WORD PERSONALLY

- A. Don't read for someone else
- B. Don't listen to see how it applies to someone else.

(Psalms 119:10-19) "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. {11} Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. {12} Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes. {13} With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. {14} I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. {15} I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. {16} I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. {17} GIMEL. Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. {18} Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. {19} I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me."

(Psalms 119:27) "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works."

(Psalms 119:33-36) "HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. {34} Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. {35} Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. {36} Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness."

(Psalms 119:40) "Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness."

(Psalms 119:44) "So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever."

(Psalms 119:50) "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."

(Psalms 119:105) "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

(Psalms 119:114) "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word."

(Psalms 119:140) "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."

6. HEAR THE WORD RESPONSIVELY

(John 2:5) "His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

Close:

How's your hearing?