

Spiritual blindness & deafness Pt 3 – the extent of our deafness

This is our third study, in our previous teaching we established two points – (1) Jesus is the remedy for physical blindness, and (2) Jesus is God's remedy for spiritual blindness. In this study we also establish two points –. (1) Physical deafness is where we cannot hear physically and (2) Spiritual deafness is when a person – i) has ears but does not hear, ii) a person has hardness of heart – either an uncircumcised heart or their heart is waxed gross.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Physical deafness is where we cannot hear physically

"And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak" (Mk.7: 37).

2. Spiritual deafness is when a person –

i) has ears but hears not

"Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not?" (Mk 8:18) – c.f.– Lk.14: 35

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. See also Lk.8: 8, Mk.7: 16.

ii) has hardness of heart

a) uncircumcised in heart

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7: 51)

b) their heart is waxed gross

"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears..." (Matt.13:15). See also Acts 28:26 & 27

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

God stretched out His right hand to redeem Israel because He loved them. He caused the first born of the Egyptians to die at the Passover, and then He parted the red sea and killed all the Egyptians that were following Israel. But when Moses went up Mt Horeb the children made a golden calf, bowed down to it and called it their god! When the next generation finally got to the land the children of Israel were disobedient and did not kill the inhabitants but left some of them to live among them and they became snares unto them.

A question to think about.

Why were Israel so deaf to God's voice, "by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways" (2kgs 17: 13)?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Because they had ears but did not hear.

Because of the hardness of their heart – that was uncircumcised and waxed gross.

Hence with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness" And these "things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" 1 Cor.10:5 & 6

Therefore, there is direct link between our ability to hear God, and our sin. The more defiled we are before Him, the less we want to hear from Him (lest we be reprov'd). And so our hearts are hardened because of sin which causes us to be deaf to His words. This is evidenced with God's remedy for our sin – next week!