

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

Genesis 18:17-21 (KJV) - And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; ¹⁸ Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. ²⁰ And the Lord said, Because **the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great**, and because their sin is very grievous; ²¹ I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according **to the cry of it**, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Introduction:

- Play the various sounds for the audience...
- The **place theory of hearing** suggests that we hear different pitches because different areas of the cochlea respond to higher and lower pitches. Conductive hearing loss is caused by physical damage to the ear or eardrum and may be improved by hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- This simple illustration magnifies my point, some people have ears that hear sounds that other people are incapable of perceiving.

Mark 4:21-25 – ²¹ Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? ²² **For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed**, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. ²³ **If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.**”

²⁴ Then He said to them, “**Take heed what you hear**. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. ²⁵ For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

- **Luke 8:18** (*Parallel Passage*) – Take heed how you hear...

Amos 8:11-13 (NLT) - “The time is surely coming,” says the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread or water **but of hearing the words of the Lord**. ¹² People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border

to border searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. ¹³ Beautiful girls and strong young men will grow faint in that day, thirsting for the Lord's word.

- God did not say there would be a famine of great preaching, but a famine of hearing...
- James continued by stating that everyone must be quick to hear (**James 1:19**). The context of that verse implies that we are to be quick to hear the Word. According to Jesus, we are blessed when we hear the Word (**Luke 11:28**). Can we become even more sensitive to the Word? I believe that we can, but I also believe that we can become dull of hearing. This problem was evident for the believers in the epistle of Hebrews. After explaining that Christ had become the source of eternal salvation in the order of Melchizedek, the writer paused in his message and stated, **"Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing"** (**Hebrews 5:11**)

Transitional statement: There was a cry coming out of Sodom, sadly, it seems that only God could hear it!

1. The cry of Judgment

- Sin cried out for judgment
- But what was the sin that caused judgment?
- **Ezekiel 16:49** - Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

2. The cry of Lot

- **Genesis 19:17-21 (NLT)** - When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, "Run for your lives! And don't look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!" ¹⁸ "Oh no, my lord!" Lot begged. ¹⁹ "You have been so gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die. ²⁰ See, there is a small village nearby. Please let me go there instead; don't you see how small it is? Then my life will be saved." ²¹ "All right," the angel said, "I will grant your request. I will not destroy the little village."
- The cry of the common Christian

- He was not concerned at all about his friends or neighbors escaping judgment that he knew was coming.

3. The cry of Lot's wife

- **Genesis 19:24-26 (NLT)** - Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁵ He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. ²⁶ **But Lot's wife looked back** as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.
- This is the cry of the backslider
- Backslide = stand still while God moves on to something new...

4. The cry of Abraham

- **Genesis 18:22-23** - Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but **Abraham still stood before the Lord.** ²³ And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"
- This is the cry of intercession
- We have a responsibility as an intercessor for the sins of our community.
- **NOBODY IS TOO VILE FOR HIS MERCY!**

Conclusion: Walking on the land and praying The Lord spoke: "Shane, your destiny isn't about you, it never has been. Your destiny is the result of somebody's cry. I sent you back home and I gave you this land, not because you deserve it, but because I have heard the cries of intercession for revival coming from this region. Your destiny here was determined by their cries for revival. Now, stand before me on behalf of these people and for my mercy is on the way!"