



**Sermon Text:** Acts 17:10-15

Sermon Date: July 15, 2018

On Sunday we focused on an essential, yet easily overlooked, aspect of thriving faith—properly listening to God’s Word preached. Jesus called his followers to “*take care then how you hear*” (Luke 8:18). The author of Hebrews repeatedly warns about the danger of becoming “*dull of hearing*” (Heb. 5:11). Sensing the importance of listening well, we examined the Bereans’ example in Acts 17.

### RECEIVE

Luke says, “*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness...*”

1. **Openly:** The word Luke used which is translated “noble” had a more general connotation of being open and tolerant. The Bereans were teachable. They were open to learn the truth.
2. **Eagerly:** They weren’t just open to learn, but eager to do so. They had a sense of expectation. We too must be eager to receive God’s Word, with an intense longing, like a newborn infant craving milk (1 Peter 2:2-3).

### RESEARCH

Not only did they receive Paul’s sermons, they took it upon themselves to research his teaching, checking it against the Scriptures. Luke says, they examined “*the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*”

1. **Carefully:** They carefully cross-examined Paul’s claims. They were not gullible. The goal isn’t just to be eager; it is also important to be accurate.
2. **Daily:** Luke says that they did their research daily. They wouldn’t have had individual copies of the Scriptures, so they would have had to travel to the synagogue each day and study the scrolls themselves. They organized their lives around knowing God’s Word. It was a clear priority to them.

### RESPOND

Lastly, we saw that they responded to the message. Luke reports, “*Many of them therefore believed...*”

- **Humbly:** They didn’t argue against the clear meaning of Scripture. They listened, studied, and determining that everything Paul said was in line with Scripture, they believed. God’s Word was their authority.
- **Deliberately:** Application doesn’t just happen, we must deliberately respond to the message just as the Bereans did.

### PRACTICAL STEPS TO LISTEN WELL

Pastor Justin closed by giving us some practical ways we can begin to take care how we listen. We must **cultivate expectation** before we arrive on Sunday, hungry for God’s Word and rested and ready to listen. We must **fully engage in the worship gathering**, putting away our phones and focusing with all our might. Then we must **soak in the Scriptures afterward**, talking about the message and allowing it to bounce around in our lives throughout the week.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. Do you see dullness of hearing as a particularly dangerous spiritual ailment? How do the warnings in Hebrews and from Jesus in Luke 8 make you feel?
3. What are some practical steps you can take to “take care how you listen”?