

Are you listening?

In our reflection this morning we learnt that there is a difference between hearing and listening.

Hearing involves the ear receiving sound.

Listening requires concentration so that our brain processes meaning from words/sounds that we hear. Listening leads to learning.

In our readings we find out about two incidents that involve people not just hearing but listening as well.

In the book of Nehemiah, the people of Israel gathered and listened to Ezra read the scriptures out aloud.

In Lukes gospel Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah in a community synagogue.

Just like those who gathered to listen to Ezra and Jesus - so, we gather each Sunday to hear and listen to the living word of God contained in the scriptures.

As we know, physical food helps us grow and maintains our existence, so spiritual food is also needed for spiritual growth and wholeness too. Part of our spiritual diet is regular community worship, hearing the Word of God being read, and listening to what the Lord is saying to us.

But, just hearing the scriptures being read is not enough. We need to also actively listen to them too. We listen so that we can obey the word of the Lord.

The question for us to ponder this week is:

Are we committed to not just hearing, but really listening to God's living Word?

As Jesus reminds us *Listen, then, if you have ears Matthew 13:9*