

SHORT ITEM - EARS TO HEAR

- So you find us here on life's journey
 - We sit by the roadside waiting for travellers to pass by
 - We aren't going to rob you, like some you may meet
 - We mean to give not take
 - All we carry is a book
 - Where did we get it?
 - It was given to us
 - Now, when it comes to your soul,
 - you may seek direction by your senses and your intellect
 - But we give you a better way - revealed from this book of God.
 - The Person who made your soul!
 - I could give you many reasons why you should trust it's words
 - Irrefutable Evidence upon evidence
 - Of **science**, of **history**, of **prophecy**
 - But I'll leave that to others, because, valuable as that may be,
 - The book doesn't really need to be defended like that.
 - Does a lion need defending?
 - If there were a lion with us in this room I don't think anyone would feel the need to defend it.
 - That's the book before us
 - It's self-authenticating.
 - Its credentials are like the lion's reputation, if you care to look into it.
 - Its words are like the lion's claws and teeth!
- But I leave it's reputation to others.
- Because it's what it says, that we're really interested in.
 - When someone, whom God is working within, hears these words, it's like they recognise them to be from God.
 - No convincing arguments really needed (although they are useful for seeking souls).
 - If your phone rings and you answer it without looking at the caller ID, it's quite possible that before the person from the other end finishes saying "hello," you would already know that it was your mother for example.
 - You could also tell within a second whether she was happy, sad, angry or concerned.

- Humans can naturally recognize and identify other humans by their voices.
- It's a crazy problem for our auditory system to solve -- to figure out how many sounds there are, what they are and where they are. But we can do it.

-That **illustrates** how we can recognise the voice of God by the gift of faith.

- Faith is like ears to hear

- 8 times in the Gospels the Lord says

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

- I hope you can hear it like that.

If not, ask God, and you shall receive.

- So let's look at something to hear.

John 10.24-30

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. (The miracles) But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one"

- Jesus the Messiah, did things only God could do.
- Evidence upon evidence
- But those who don't want to believe will be determined to doubt
- There are none so deaf as those who don't want to hear!

-Don't be like that.

- Man likes to think he's a strong, impressive animal
- But the Bible says we're like sheep that have gone astray and turned to their own way.
- And what do sheep need?

A SHEPHERD

- BUT We say "I don't understand.
Unless I have all my questions answered I won't believe it!"
- You know,
you don't need to wait until then.

Answers will come.

- There's really only One main thing you really need to know:-

That God speaks to you, that's all.

- Because if it is God speaking, then

why do you doubt,
Why do you question?
Doesn't He know all things?
Doesn't He do all things perfectly?
Isn't He perfectly fair?

- Why stay trusting a world that is a proven liar, instead of coming to God who cannot lie?

-You may think you don't need to.
But He says you do.
And He knows better, obviously,
So trust Him.

- You may think you're happy without Him
 - But you're made for Him,
- so that false satisfaction cannot last,
- You're being kept happy for now like a kidnapped child being kept fed and warm for now
- But there's no good future without God.

- The Bible says remember your Creator in the days of your youth before the evil days come.
 - Things are as the Bible says they are.
- You're a fallen creature in need of salvation, whether you realise it or not

- You don't need all your questions answered now in order to come to God.
- That's just Satan tempting you to delay and delay until you never come.
- Just trust Him because of who He is.
- That's a perfectly reasonable thing to do.
(I remember in art college we looked in a lecture at the work of Micheal Angelo. His work was Genius, but one girl wasn't happy with an aspect of it. The lecturer noted it, but said I just accept it because of who the artist is- he's Michael Angelo! If we can do this with a man, how much more God!)
- He'll give you your answers in due time.
- When the man who was blind from birth was healed and questioned by the doubters
 - He said he didn't know everything",
"I know not:" he said,
but he knew enough to believe
"one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."
- I hope by the time you leave us you can recognise the Shepherd's voice,
and see also,
when before, you couldn't hear or see it at all.

- FLOWER ILL

If you had a very intelligent scientific man - a botanist.

But he was blind.

He could tell you all sorts of things about a certain flower.

But then you have a small child, a little girl, who doesn't even know how to read, but she can see the flower.

She knows more about how that flower looks than he does.

- ORANGE ILL

There was once an Atheistic lecturer who gave a talk about what he thought of God.

Afterwards an old believer walked up to him.

He was eating an orange.

He said "What do you think about the flavour of my orange?"

The proud lecturer said "How can I know anything about the flavour, I haven't tasted it!"

The believer said "But you've presumed to tell us all about God, but you haven't tasted Him either".

The man couldn't answer.

In psalm 34.8 it says

"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."