Proverbs: The Ear

***Introduction***

1. **To gain knowledge & understanding we have to listen to what is right.**

12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.



1. **Why we should listen to what is right**

*It creates beauty*

22:17 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, 18 for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

25:12 Like an ear-ring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.

*It leads to everlasting fruit*

19:20 Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

21:28 A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure. (ESV)

*It leads to life – real life*

 Soul Bling!

31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. 32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.

 *It protects community*

29:12 If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked.

 *It develops our prayer life*

21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

28:9 If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

 Note: Parable of the unmerciful servant.

1. **Barriers to listening to what is right**

*Listening to the wrong things*

17:4 A wicked man listens to evil lips; a liar pays attention to a malicious tongue.

*My view of myself*

12:15 The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

18:2 A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

18:13 He who answers before listening--that is his folly and his shame.

*Thinking I’ve arrived*

19:27 Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.



Billy Graham. “I read five psalms every day - that teaches me how to get along with God. I read a chapter of Proverbs every day – that teaches me how to get along with my fellow man.”

 Note: Solomon

*Driving the wise to silence.*

23:9 Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.

Note: Jesus and Herod

**Applications**

 Remember the need to seek advice. This Spirit has revealed this necessity.

 Things to stop listening to

 Things to start listening to