

Are you listening? (Will Stileman)

At the end of a recent sermon on [Ezekiel chapters 2 & 3](#), our vicar Will Stileman posed the following questions as a checklist to see how good we are at listening to God.

If you can read, do you spend some time each day reading a portion of the Bible and then spending some decent time thinking about it?

How creative are you about finding those moments in your busy day in which you can take the time to ponder on what God is saying to us through his word?

How much time do you spend listening to music or listening to the radio, or surfing the net or watching the television? How does that compare in any given week to the amount of time you listen to God speaking to you through the Bible?

To what extent are you putting yourself in a position so that you can regularly hear God speaking to you through sermons, Bible studies and other Biblically instructed Christian talks or books? How does your diary for this week reflect those priorities?

Check your diary these past two months and work out how many Sundays you have been at church. How consistent are you in putting yourself under the sound of gospel preaching?

What truth has God been putting on your heart this last week? What have you done about it?

If you are convicted that you haven't been listening to God either carefully or enough, then don't despair. Acknowledge that failing before God and seek again his grace and favour, because the situation we find ourselves in is very different from Ezekiel's hearers.

Although we have naturally rebellious hearts like they do, unlike them we live this side of Jesus' birth and death and resurrection. The Jews of Ezekiel's day couldn't live up to God's righteous standards and sadly we can't either but Jesus can and has. And as our representative, he has lived the righteous life that God calls us to live. He has listened to God and lived according to God's ways. And having secured our forgiveness through his death on the cross,

Jesus has poured out his Spirit into the hearts of all those who have believed in him.

Now by his Spirit (who lives in the heart of all true believers) God empowers us to start listening to God's word again. God is willing to help us listen to him as if our very lives depend on it... which of course they do.