

## THE CHALLENGE OF LISTENING

*Jesus taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: "Listen!"*  
Mark 4:2-3a

**Jesus sometimes told stories without stating their \_\_\_\_\_.**

### WHY?

**To discover who was spiritually \_\_\_\_\_.**

### FOUR TYPES OF LISTENERS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **listeners.** They say, "I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Example: Teachers of the law (Mark 3:22)  
GOAL: Always be a \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **listeners.** They say, "I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Example: Jesus' family (Mark 3:20-21)  
GOAL: Realize that the toll on the road to JOY is \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **listeners.** They say, "I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_."  
GOAL: Prioritize God who is the \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **listeners.** They say, "I want to \_\_\_\_\_."  
Example: the Twelve and the others (Mark 4:10)

### YOUR GOAL:

**Respond to the \_\_\_\_\_ God has given you**

## Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 15, 2009

Mark 3:1-4:34

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to watch one television program continuously for eight hours, three days in a row, what would it be and why?

### INTO THE BIBLE

2. We reviewed several interactions Jesus had in these chapters:

- Jesus healing the man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath
- Jesus picking his twelve disciples
- Jesus responding to his family's accusations
- Jesus responding to those who accused him of being demon-possessed

Which of these interactions caught your attention the most and why?

3. Most teachers use stories to illustrate a point they are making. However, how Jesus used parables was not very typical. What are your initial thoughts, impressions, or questions about the way he used stories?

4. Let's look at two groups of "listeners" to see what we can learn from them. God speaks to the first group of people through a prophet named Ezekiel. Read **Ezekiel 33:30-32**, and write down in your own words what kind of listeners they were.

5. Another group of "listeners" is in a book called Nehemiah. It takes place around 430 B.C., when God's people who had been in captivity began to return to their homeland. **Read Nehemiah 8:1-12**. What strikes you about their attitude as they listened to God's Word?

### BRINGING IT HOME

6. Looking back over your message notes, toward which of the first three types of listeners do you tend to gravitate?
7. Jesus said, "Consider carefully what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more." What's one thing – either from the sermon or from the passages you read above – that you would like to put into practice to become a better listener to God?