

When God Doesn't Listen

TWO GUYS

TALKING TO GOD

Luke 18:9-14/ 1 Peter 3:10-12 & Hebrews 11:6

WHO WOULD YOU LISTEN TO?

- ✓ A spiritually zealous, morally upright, Biblical scholar? **Pharisee**
- ✓ A spiritually cold, Biblically illiterate, dishonest traitor? **Tax Collector**

THE KIND OF PEOPLE GOD LISTENS TO

- ✓ Those who walk in **faith & obedience**
- ✓ Those who approach Him in **humility**

DIFFERENT ANSWERS

CALL FOR DIFFERENT RESPONSES

Mark 14:34-42/ Luke 18:1-8/ Judges 10:6-16

- ✓ “No,” calls for **trusting submission**
- ✓ “Not yet,” calls for **patience & persistence**
- ✓ “No answer,” calls for a change **in behavior**

STATIC ON THE LINE

Five Things That Can Turn God's Ear Deaf

- ❶ Refusing to let go of a **cherished sin**
Psalm 66:18/ Proverbs 28:9/ Proverbs 1:22-33
- ❷ Harboring **bitterness** and refusing to **forgive**
Mark 11:25/ Matthew 7:2 & Matthew 6:12-15
- ❸ Failing to show **compassion for the poor**
Proverbs 21:13/ Proverbs 29:7/ Luke 10:29-37
- ❹ Failing to live by **kingdom priorities**
James 4:3-4/ Matthew 6:33/ John 14:14 & 15:7
- ❺ Failing to honor **your wife**
1 Peter 3:7/ Malachi 2:13-15

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching, do you need prayer for one of the things listed that keeps God from hearing your prayers?

Are you having any difficulty with requests you sense God saying "no," "not yet," or "no answer" to? If so, is there anything you'd like specific prayer for regarding this request?

PRAYER REQUESTS

✓

✓

✓

✓

✓

NORTH COAST
community  service

SOLUTIONS FOR CHANGE - A Growth Group is needed to provide dinner and childcare for about 50 children at North County Solutions for Change on Thursday, April 1. Check out the community service website for further details and to sign up, www.northcoastchurch.com/service. Or call Randy at (760) 720-9558.

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- ❷ Harboring _____ and refusing to _____
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James 4:3-4/ Matthew 6:33/ John 14:14 & 15:7
- ❺ Failing to honor _____
1 Peter 3:7/ Malachi 2:13-15

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 7, 2010

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention?

MY STORY

1. If you gave your co-workers/neighbors the list of five things that cause God to not hear our prayers from this weekend's teaching, which one do you think they would be most surprised was on the list?

2. This week we focused on the topic of "When God Doesn't Answer Prayer." How do you normally react when God tells you "no" or "not yet"?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard about how to clear the static on the line to enable our prayers to be heard by God. One of the most important steps to take is to remove any known sin. In Psalm 139:19-24 David is angered by those opposing him and calls out to God to take some action. What is the key to David keeping static off his line even in this heated situation (see verses 23-24)?

Do you ever include this question in your prayers to God? Why or why not?

What might be some of the challenges in allowing someone else to answer the same question about you? Can you think of any benefits?

David also gives us an example of the impact of known sin and steps to deal with it. As you read Psalm 32:3-5, are there any parts of it that you have experienced when it comes to dealing with known sin?

2. Forgiving others can be no small challenge especially in the case of incredible injustice or deep relational hurt. Yet forgiving others is what frees us from the baggage that we pick up when we harbor bitterness and find ourselves refusing to forgive. How might the verses below help us move forward to grow in our ability and/or motivation to forgive?

Isaiah 53:6

Genesis 1:27

Romans 12:19

Colossians 3:12-14

What do you find challenging in forgiving others?

3. We saw in this week's teaching five things that can block our prayers to God. According to the following verses, what additional issues can also block our prayers to God?

Proverbs 28:9

Luke 18:1-5

Ezekiel 14:3

1 John 5:14-15

Looking back at what you wrote above and the five that were mentioned in this week's sermon, which one caught your attention the most and why?