

## How Is Your Inner Ear?

Arthur Barry

Ossicles are the tiny bones in the inner ear that help transmit vibration, which becomes intelligent sound. It is an amazing design. I remember when I was in the Navy undergoing training for flight orders an instructor told us that these were the culprits that caused ears to itch. I have never been able to verify that and I think he was just trying to make his presentation more amusing. Teachers learn to use graphic illustrations and figurative language to get their point across. Jesus did this with His own teaching when He taught in parables and used imagery like that of a camel going through the eye of a needle.

There is nothing wrong with illustrating when you are teaching, and in some ways, this might be viewed as falling into the category of catering to itching ears. The teacher says things that he or she knows will be eagerly received, things that appeal to the ears. These are thoughts that stimulate thinking. They may be quite fanciful, like the camel and the eye of a needle (Matthew 19:24), or they may be dramatic embellishments of reality, like the wise and foolish virgins who needed to keep their lamps supplied with oil (Mathew 25:1-13).

In 2 Timothy 4:3, 4 we read a warning about itching ears, however.

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

This obviously goes beyond stimulating people to receive what you are saying. Paul's concern is that the hearers themselves will have already made up their minds about what they want to hear. The actual core message must be just right or else their ears will continue itching. It does not matter how you illustrate the truth because they have turned away from listening to the truth and their passions now lie elsewhere. The ears are desperately trying to satisfy the heart. In the same way a person who loves the truth is described as one who "hungers and thirsts for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6) Jesus promises these people that they will be "filled". If a person does not love the truth they still yearn to be filled and so they "wander off into myths." They need to find teachers who suit their passions because none of them can satisfy their hearts. They can listen to as many false teachers as they want but their ears will only itch more and more. They are never filled, so they never stop seeking... wandering ... itching. They have an itch that cannot be scratched.

Those of us who love the truth are easily filled. We understand that itching ears must be scratched from the inside. Only God's wisdom can do that.

*Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.*

Psalm 51:6



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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June 21, 2020

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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#### **Today's Sermon:** *Pray Without Ceasing, pt. 2*

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:5-15

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: June 24<sup>th</sup>**, at the building at 6:30. We have been studying the minor prophets of the Old Testament. We studied Obadiah and Joel. Next we will begin Amos.
- **Ice Cream Social Distancing: Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1pm until gone.**
- **Next Potluck: TBD**
- **Next Regional Singing: August 30<sup>th</sup> (if possible) venue TBA**
- **Sojourners- July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 6<sup>th</sup>**



- We are planning an **Ice Cream Social Distancing** outreach event for **Saturday July 11th** in the church parking lot. There will be homemade and store-bought ice cream to give out. Please let Arthur or Paul know if you are willing to donate ice cream or cones to this effort.
- Please let Sandy know if you would like some **N95 masks** or if you would like some homemade **cloth face masks**.
- **We are now meeting in the building for Bible study and worship on Sunday and for Bible study on Wednesday! We will no longer publish our worship on livestream.**
- Paul will be preaching again today.
- Jackie's sister, Phyllis, has been visiting her for a week, and plans to stay for another week.

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for all of us as individual states are opening for business and gatherings in stages. Pray that the virus has lost much of its power.**
- **We are thankful to see our brothers and sisters in Christ as we return to worshipping together here in our beautiful building.**
- Pray for **John Chacona**, Ted's brother, who is in hospital here in Sayre with a life-threatening illness.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz**, friend of Darlene's, who has lung cancer.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori is also dealing with two brain tumors.
- Pray for **G.K. Pennington** and his wife Jo as they deal with his esophageal cancer in the months to come. He has started chemo and radiation treatments simultaneously.
- **Bill Dayton**, preacher in Kentucky, and classmate with Arthur at Northeast School of Biblical Studies is suffering from **severe depression**. Pray for him and for his wife Laura, who cares for him.
- **Pray for our country as we go through a time of turmoil and racial tension.** Pray for our leaders and help us all to think and behave like Christians...with love.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.