

## **EVENING WORSHIP**

14 October 2007

Title: "Hearing but not Understanding"

Text: Isaiah 6; Matthew 13

### **(I) A NATION SO GREATLY BLESSED WITH KNOWLEDGE**

1. Acknowledged by Moses (Deuteronomy 4:32-36)
2. Appreciated by the Apostle Paul (Romans 2:17-20)

### **(II) DEGENERATION OF A NATION**

1. Children who have rebelled against their Father (Isaiah 1:2)
2. A nation laden with sin (Isaiah 1:4)
3. Natural consequences of indulging in sin (Isaiah 1:5-9)

### **(III) ONLY A SHELL**

1. Multitude of sacrifices (Isaiah 1:11)
2. Religious feasts that are rejected (Isaiah 1:12-15)

### **(IV) WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?**

*"Keep on hearing, but do not understand;  
Keep on seeing, but do not perceive."* **Isaiah 6:9**

1. Hearing but not taking the trouble to understand
2. Seeing but not taking the trouble to perceive

### **(V) DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES**

*"Make the heart of this people dull,  
And their ears heavy,  
And shut their eyes;  
Lest they see with their eyes,  
And hear with their ears,  
And understand with their heart,  
And return and be healed."* **Isaiah 6:10**

1. **Tragic consequences (In Isaiah's day)**
  - a) The heart can become dull (no interest)
  - b) The ear can become heavy (no response)

c) The eye can be shut (no comprehension)

## **2. Continuing Tragic consequences (In Jesus' day)**

*"And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:  
'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,  
And seeing you will see and not perceive;  
For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
Their ears are hard of hearing,  
And their eyes they have closed..."* **Matthew 13:14-15**

a) Sad fulfillment of the Scriptures (in this case)

b) Self-fulfilling prophecy

c) Harming of ourselves

## **(VI) GUARDING OF OUR HEARTS**

*"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear"* **Matthew 13:16**

*"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."* **Matthew 13:23**

**1. Training our eyes to see always**

**2. Training our ears to hear always**

**3. Ensuring that our hearts are "good ground"**