

■ Meditation

Don't just hear God's word, listen too

Meditation



Dr. Jeff Hensley
Pastor
Kings Mountain
Baptist Church

In the book of Acts there is a story about a man named Eutychus, who was sitting on the sill of a third-floor window listening to the apostle Paul preach when he fell asleep and then fell from the window to his death. The story doesn't end there, for Paul healed the man, but it is a story I think about whenever I see someone fall asleep in church.

Of course, we are living in a busy world and many people work 60 hours a week before they ever come to church on a Sunday morning, so what right do I, or any other pastor for that matter, have to condemn someone for going to sleep in church? Some people also fall asleep because of their medications, and sometimes they fall asleep because we pastors can be boring, so there are obvious reasons for the weariness.

As a general rule, I don't say too much about this, and if a congregation is healthy and growing in Christ then why should the preacher worry too much about a few mid-sermon catnaps? Yet, there are times when I find myself wondering if the Church today has not gone to sleep spiritually, and if I sense that is the case then I think it deserves a nudge from the pulpit.

Listening is not an easy task, of course, and far

too few of us really know how to listen actively. I have watched worshipers for example, as they have sat in their favorite spots with their arms folded and a scowl on their faces. Although I am no expert in body language, even I can see that such a person is closed off to the Word that is being preached. Furthermore, when there are believers who sit weekly in a pew with their bodies awake but their souls obviously asleep, I find myself wanting to scream out: "Wake up Church!"

Those who are faithful believers need to remember that God's Word demands active listening, but even more so, it demands active doing. Whether we read it in our own quiet time with God, hear it spoken or taught by another believer, or receive it from a preacher in a pulpit, God's Truth demands a response from us.

I have always been told that if you don't practice your gifts or talents, whatever they may be, you will lose the use of them. It was as Mars Hill College that I first learned to read the Bible in its original languages of Hebrew and Greek, and every since then I have forced myself to read the Scriptures in the original languages on a regular basis so that I would not allow my skill to become rusty.

There is nothing that frustrates me as a pastor any more than to see believers let their ability to hear the Word of God rust for lack of use, which is why I think we all need to be reminded of the importance of listening actively to God's Word.

■ Briefs

Women's Explosion

Adams Chapel AME Zion Church will sponsor Women's Explosion 2010 Nov. 20 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the theme "There is A Queen for You" and on the topic, "Triumph over Evil."

Registration is free beginning at 9 a.m. Lunch will be served after the service.

Featured speakers are Elder Dakota McCullough of Friendship Christian Center in Gastonia, Evangelist Robin Bamberg of Mount Zion Restoration in Gastonia, and pastor Tresia Hicklin of Gilmore Chapel in Concord. Gwen Berry will be soloist, and praise and worship will be led by the Life of Worship Praise Team with dance by Tiffney Williams, special presentation by Louise Lomick and special testimony by Sinetra Jeter.

Door prizes will also be presented. Call Dorothy Gill at 704-868-9381 for more information.

Singing Christmas tree

The Singing Christmas Tree at Double Springs Baptist Church will start the Christmas season with services Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings Nov. 26-28. Tickets are free of charge but are required and may be

obtained by calling the church office at 704-434-2258 or calling Debbie Bridges at 704-692-2975.

Chicken Pie supper

Dover Baptist Church, 1501 Polkville Rd., Shelby, will serve a chicken pie supper Saturday from 5-7 p.m. Takeouts are available or enjoy Christian fellowship in the dining area. All proceeds are earmarked for construction of a new picnic shelter. The public is invited.

"Southland" to sing Saturday

The popular gospel singing group "Southland" will sing Saturday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. at Harvest Baptist Church, 144 Ware Rd. The public is invited.

Grover 2011 calendar

Grover Woman's Club is conducting the annual listing of birthdays, anniversaries and memories for the 2011 Community Calendar which will go on sale at \$3 and 50 cents per listing. Call Betsy Wells, 704-739-1545 for more information.

Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

New Beginnings Church

KINGS MOUNTAIN
Bethlehem Baptist Church
1017 Bethlehem Road
704-739-7487

Body of Christ
Fellowship Center
405 S. Cherokee St.
www.bodyofchrist7.com

Cornerstone Church Of God
202 Margrace Road
704-739-3773

Boyce Memorial ARP Church
Edgemont Drive
704-739-4917

Cornerstone Independent
Baptist
107 Range Road
704-737-0477

Burning Bush House of God
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)
704-739-2877

Crowders Mountain Baptist
125 Mayberry Lane
704-739-0310

Calvary Way Holiness
Church
1017 Second Street
Pastor Clifton Morgan

David Baptist Church
2300 David Baptist Church
Road
704-739-4555

Carson Memorial Baptist
Church
262 Sparrow Springs Road
704-739-2247

Dixon Presbyterian Church
602 Dixon School Road
dixonpresbyterian.com

Central United Methodist
Church
113 S. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-2471

East Gold Street Wesleyan
Church
701 E. Gold Street
704-739-3215

Cherokee St. Baptist Church
421 S. Cherokee Street
704-739-7697

East Kings Mountain Church
of God
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM
Hwy.
704-739-7367

Chestnut Ridge Baptist
Church
618 Chestnut Ridge Road
704-739-4015

Eastside Baptist Church
308 York Road
704-739-8055

Christian Freedom Southern
Baptist Church
246 Range Road
704-739-4152

Ebenezer Baptist Church
1621 County Line Road
704-739-8331

Christ The King Catholic
Church
714 Stone Street
704-487-7697

El Bethel United Methodist
Church
122 El-bethel Road
704-739-9174

Church at Kings Mountain
108 E. Mountain St.
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)
704-739-1323

Emmanuel Independent Bap-
tist Church
602 Canterbury Road
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church
1128 S. York Road

704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church
1009 Linwood Road
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center
1818 Shelby Road
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church
605 W. King Street
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene
121 Countryside Road
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church
111 E. King Street
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church
505 N. Piedmont Avenue
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist
117 Galilee Church Road
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church
202 S. Railroad Avenue
704-739-5351

Good Hope
Presbyterian Church
105 N. Cansler Street
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship
144 West Mountain Street
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist
Church
830 Church Street
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church
144 Ware Road
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist
Church
101 W. Mountain Street
704-739-2516

Kings Lighthouse Worship
Center
420 Branch Street
704-739-7700

Proclaiming the Word Ministries

7011 Cleveland Avenue
704-937-7390864-839-1873

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In order to accommodate the
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to check next weeks paper.

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