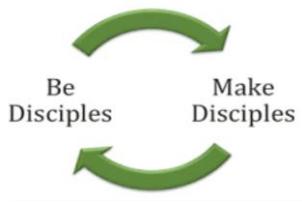
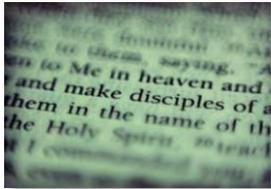


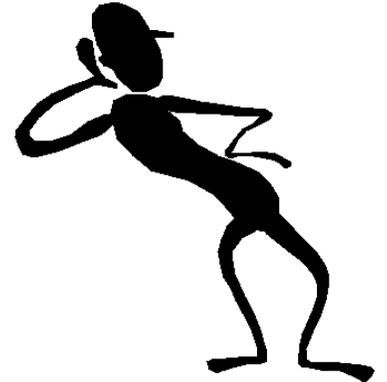
The Heart of the Hearer



**LET'S GET
ENERGIZED
ABOUT
EVANGELIZM!**



Many times when we discuss the subject of evangelism, we focus on Christians being prepared and ready to preach and teach the soul-saving message of the gospel. The entire burden is not exclusively on the teacher or preacher, but some of the responsibility rests upon the hearer. The hearer's heart must be good, honest, and open to receive the message of the gospel. Below is a list of people in God's word who possessed the right type of heart to receive God's word.



1. King Josiah - It is said of the young king, "Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord" (2 Kings 22:19). When the heart is tender and humble, God's word will penetrate it and cause visible changes. Josiah destroyed the idols, the altars, and removed the idolatrous priests out of Judah. It was because his heart was tender and humble to receive the instructions of God.

2. The Jews on Pentecost - These people heard a sermon concerning their mistreatment of Jesus Christ. They heard how David prophesied of the Lord's death and resurrection. After the completion of the sermon, their hearts were pricked and 3000 souls became Christians. It says of them, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). The hearer has a responsibility to gladly receive the taught message of the gospel.

3. Those who practiced curious arts - As Paul ministered in the area of Ephesus, he encountered certain vagabond Jews who believed they had the power to exorcise demons. When those demons prevailed over those individuals many in the area believed on Jesus. They believed, confessed, and burned their books expressing their repentance (Acts 19:11-20). Our hearts must be penitent when hearing the word of God. If one is not willing to compare what they practice against the words of the Bible, how will they ever know if their works are right before God?

The hearer has an important role when it comes to receiving the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that we come in contact with men and women who possess the proper heart to receive the word of God.

- K.A. Pugh