**Receive the Word**

*“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* - John 12:48

**Introduction**

1. We are all receivers of the word.
2. Some receive the word different than others.
3. There are correct ways to receive the word.
4. Receive the Word With Meekness – James 1:21 (explain context)
5. Meekness defined.

* *prautēs –* mildness, that is, humility.
  + *It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His (God’s) dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. –* Vines Expository Dictionary

1. Meekness is necessary for the word to save you.

* It’s a characteristic a Christian should have.
  + Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:11; when helping others – Gal. 6:1 and 2 Tim. 2:23-26
* We are all sinners! (Humility)
  + Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22
* We are not above instruction/correction! (Humility)
  + 2 Timothy 3:16
  + Proverb 12:1 – humility is necessary in receiving instruction.
  + 2 Corinthians 4:16 – renewed day by day
    - Colossians 3:8-11 – renewed in knowledge. *(Participation by the knower in the object known. – James 1:22-25)*

1. Receive the Word With All Readiness – Acts 17:10-11

* Fair-minded (noble) *eugenēs –* well born, that is, (literally) high in rank, or (figuratively) generous
  + They had an open mindset to receive truth. They did not refuse to listen.

1. Readiness is the attitude needed toward receiving the word.

* Readiness *prothumia* – predisposition, that is, alacrity *(cheerful readiness, promptness, or willingness)*: - forwardness of mind.
  + Willingness to give Paul a fair hearing.
    - Unlike those in Thessalonica – Acts 17:1-9
      * The ones who believed did not search the scriptures (17:4). They were persuaded!
      * The ones who were not persuaded caused havoc (17:5-9). They didn’t care for truth. They didn’t want change.

1. Searched the Scriptures (v.11)!

* Paul and Silas preach Christ (prophecy from Old Testament).
* Isaiah 34:16-17 (prophecy of Judgment)
  + *(It is possible to believe something just because someone said it, and have better knowledge of the subject because what they said was correct. Just as it is possible to believe something just because someone said it, and that leading you in the wrong direction because it is false. However, your faith will be more genuine and strong if you search the scriptures and find the truth yourself!)*

If you receive the word with meekness and all readiness, you will receive it as the good ground.

1. Receive the Word As Good Ground – Mark 4:3-9; 13-20
2. The seed is perfect! (without flaw)

* Obviously it worked with the good ground. Why didn’t it work with the others?
  + 4:4 – Wayside. 4:15 – Satan takes the word.
  + 4:5 – Stony Ground. 4:16-17 – have no root.
  + 4:7 – Thorns. 4:18-19 – cares of world choke out the word.
  + In each case the problem was the soil (heart).
* What is the word?
  + John 1:1-5 – Jesus is the word!
    - Col. 1:15-18
  + Heb. 4:14-16 – Without sin, flawless!
    - 1 Peter 1:17-19
  + 1 Cor. 13:10 – perfect (complete, lacking nothing, everything you need)

1. The word is not the problem!

* Parable of the sower, it was the soil!
* Those in Thessalonica (Acts 17).
* Acts 26:24-29 – King Agrippa
  + Hebrews 4:12 – The word never fails. It is the recipient of the word that fails. The word shows us whether or not their heart is honest.
    - Discerns the honest heart from the dishonest heart.

**Conclusion**

1. How are you going to receive the word?

2. Whether it be something different you haven’t heard, or something basic that you’ve been taught, are you going to receive it.

3. Find out if the word spoken is matching the Bible. If it is then apply it!

4. If you don’t apply it then you don’t have an honest heart.