

2020916 Lector Report

WE SEE WHAT WE SEE AND HEAR WHAT WE HEAR...OR DO WE?

With perceived advances in every facet of life, one may wonder just how much the world can continue to change.

Athletes are going faster and jumping higher.

Computers are moving faster than our comprehension of even seeing what something to the negative power of 10 looks like.

We often sit back and say, "Did I really just see what I think I saw?"

It is now commonplace to simply answer, "yes."

However, when much seems out of our control, it is God who reminds us that we fully control our actions and reactions.

We control what we see, what we hear, and most importantly, what we say.

So how do we not fall for something that is not real?

It is a simple question. Is it from God or from man?

In Mark's gospel 7:33-35: After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

As previously stated, God gives us control of what we see, hear and speak.

"Ephphatha!" "Be opened!"

If we have opened our ears and our hearts to be filled with the words and the quality love that only God can give, and He commands us speak freely, would we not be spreading the love of God vs the hatred and vitriol of man?

Gods' words are freely given and available to us. Why do we choose to use words in other ways that do not glorify God.

He told us what he expects and yet we act out of emotions instead of out of His love which supposedly has filled our ears, minds, and hearts.

We see others try to break our foundational beliefs and they boldly say we must dilute our principles and be accepting of others and what others feel is right.

Jesus sat with the tax collectors and the prostitutes, not to say he accepts what they do as right. He sat with them to convert them but not give credibility that they are going down an acceptable path.

Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

Love the sinner but hate the sin.

"Ephphatha!" "Be opened!"

Being open does not mean accepting everything, nor does showing compassion display weakness.

We must show openness and compassion, but we must also display a strong backbone which will not break. Our strength and fortitude are the shield which God provides and it cannot be pierced unless we lose faith.

Not everything is visible, and we may find the best way for us to help others is by improving internally to be effective externally.

The heart is protected by a cavity of bones, but the capacity of the heart cannot be contained.

"Ephphatha!" "Be opened!"

I decided to also do a biblical search to find where God tells us to close our heart. I found [Luke 21:34](#), "Be careful, or **your hearts** will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will **close** on you suddenly like a trap.

He tells us what will happen if we fall away from Him, and what will cause our hearts to close but never does He tell us to close our heart to His way, His truth, and finding everlasting life with Him.

Being open may subject you to criticism and ridicule, by man but not by God. But it is better to be ridiculed by man by professing our love of God then to be accepted by man and be judged by God.

So, knowing we control what we see, say and do, it is not really a choice at all.

It is God's way or the highway.

The songs tell us there is a Stairway to Heaven and a Highway to Hell probably based on projected traffic patterns.

The direction you choose is up to you

Vivat Jesus