

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Selective Hearing Loss

Long ago, I built very high performance hunting rifles. They would shoot a long way and very accurately, but they were very very loud. I also shot those rifles -- a lot. Eventually my ears began making funny ringing sounds after every shooting session. Something was wrong! I gave up all that shooting -- too late!-- permanent hearing loss! As a replacement, I took up wood working -- with lots of power saws, planers, routers. All made loud and high pitched noises. I eventually noticed the world was much quieter. I am a little slow, but I acquired ear protectors -- even wore them sometimes. You got it! Too late! More permanent hearing loss. Time for hearing aids. They have not impaired my hearing -- I guess, though I am not sure.

There are all kinds of selective hearing loss. For instance, one ear does not work well while the other does just fine. Partial hearing loss. Not too bad. One hearing aid likely will fix the problem. Others acquire "selective frequency hearing loss." You hear low tones just fine, but cannot hear the high tones. Loud guns -- loud machinery -- loud music does that to you. A pair of good hearing aids helps. Not a perfect fix, but a reasonable correction.

My wife claims I also have an additional sort of selective hearing loss. Sometimes I just cannot hear her call -- no matter how loudly she speaks. Someone else called this "convenient hearing loss." "Did you say something, honey?" "Huh?" Hearing aid technology has not gotten a good fix for this just yet. Soon, though! Be a great seller!

Then there is "selective topic hearing loss." Hearing aids do absolutely no good. Why, people are afflicted with it who have a perfect score on their hearing tests. They can hear a pin drop! But ... "Honey, this garbage is stinking. Will you do something with it." No reply. He did not hear a word! Things repugnant trigger this hearing loss. "The grass surely needs mowing." It is Saturday -- a championship basketball game is on the TV. That is sure to trigger complete deafness. "The baby's diaper is really nasty dirty." Immediate hearing loss! The list for repugnant induced hearing loss list is very long. Even if the deafness is overcome, there seems to be a mental impairment. "I just did not hear you" has a back up -- "Oh, I forgot."

"Have I showed you pictures of my grandchildren?" I think, "No, and I really appreciate it." Undaunted, grandmother proceeds: "I have stories about them that will amaze you." Oh, no! Onset of selective deafness -- recognized by a glassy look in the eyes -- often followed by drooping eyelids. I observed these symptoms while preaching. I suspect they did not hear well.

Selective hearing disorder is rampant among brethren -- epidemic proportions. Some with keen minds and hearing are affected. They hear every detail, hint, or whisper if it is on their favorite topic -- and if it favors their conclusion. They never say, "Huh?" --- until a critic of their favorite conclusion speaks up. He must speak in their deaf frequency. "I didn't get that; say it again." Nine times repeated -- in simple sentences -- said slowly -- in loud tones. Yet, he still frowns and says "Huh?" after each statement. Oh, for a hearing aid to fix that problem! Tampering with tradition also triggers this hearing loss. Any suggestion other than "what we have always done" or "what we have always thought" produces deafening globs of ear wax. "What? Huh?" punctuate nearly every sentence. Profound hearing loss! Selective hearing loss also occurs with disagreeable assignments. "Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears" (1 Sam. 3:9). Which works fine -- until the Lord commands hard things -- wash one another's feet -- give away your money -- put God first even before job or family. "Huh? I think I

misunderstood." Sudden, acute hearing loss! -- which may be a sign: "you do not hear, because you are not of God." (John 8:47).

There is hearing help -- a hearing aid. (1) Pay attention. Sleeping really plays havoc with hearing -- a wandering mind does too. (2) An open and honest heart -- one that genuinely seeks the will of God -- really cleans out the ears. There is an inescapable connection between a "good and honest heart" and a good listening ear. There is also a connection between a "dull heart" and ears that are "hard of hearing" (Matt. 13:15). (3) A commitment to listen -- focuses the ear. "Speak Lord your servant hears ." is a good promise to make to the Lord. It has always been the key to success: those who "...will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). Hearing loss can be deadly.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says" (Rev. 2:7)

- Joe Fitch

Some Day ...

I've studied God's Word. I guess that it's true.
Depending on self - usually will do.
I live fairly well. What more can I say?
I'll follow this Jesus - Some day.

There's all kinds of sins, some big and some small,
like little white lies - that don't matter at all.
I'm sure you'll agree that the end's a long way.
I'll follow Jesus - Some day.

Sure, I sometimes curse, and tell dirty jokes.
I am what I am, not like hypocritical folks.
I'm hurting no one. I do what I may.
I'll follow Jesus - Some day.

I cheat on my taxes, sometimes cheat on my wife.
Everybody does it. That's part of life.

I'm loose when I work, intense when I play.
I'll follow Jesus - maybe - Some day.

I don't know if it's "God", or just "something" out there.
I don't worry about that. I haven't a care.
I'm all that I need, so why should I pray?
I'll follow Jesus - Some day.

I smoke and I drink, get rowdy and yell,
but never robbed a bank - no one have I killed.
I'm living high. My mind you can't sway.
I'll follow your Jesus - Some day.

I've lived a long life, always got by –
grabbed all the gusto, reached for the sky -
Had to slow down. My hair has turned gray.
Jesus? Well, maybe - Some day.

Epilogue:

He lived a low life, but he thought, "I live high!
There's plenty of time. Maybe I really won't die.
I'll change later on from this life where I stray.
Oh ... hello, Jesus. I didn't expect You today!"

Obituary:

Like the rich man in Luke, the old fellow died –
Tormented in flames, for water he cried.
His "Some day" is gone - too late to obey.

Will you follow Jesus? "Some day" is today.

~ Netagene Kirkpatrick ~ 2003 ~

It's A Matter of Rank

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr, is known as the son of the famous President, but he had an impressive career in his own right. He graduated from Harvard and served in the military in W.W.I. He was one of the founders of the American Legion and was Assistant Secretary of the Navy like his father was before him. He was the Governor General of the Philippines and Governor of Puerto Rico. He ended his public career and entered business in 1933. During his military career he was awarded every military combat decoration including the Congressional Medal of Honor. With the start of W.W.II he returned to active duty and was promoted to Brigadier General.

A story is told of Roosevelt from the early days of W.W.II. He was waiting to board a plane on which he had a reservation. He overheard a private at the ticket window begging for a ticket: "I'm going overseas in three days. I want to see my mother before I go. I can only get home and back if I travel by plane!" He was told, however, that there were no seats available on the plane. At that moment Roosevelt stepped up and said that he would surrender his ticket and give his seat on the plane to the private. A fellow officer protested, "But General, this is a matter of rank!" Roosevelt gave a masterful reply: "That's right. He's a son. I'm only a General."

The highest rank which God could bestow upon us is to call us his children. "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are" (1 John 3:1). You can desire to be a CEO or a General or the President of the United States. You can strive to achieve to become many things that include a great title of responsibilities, but the greatest title you will EVER wear is that of a "child of God." As children we are given the closest possible fellowship in a relationship with God. We are given all the privileges of heirs. We are granted the status of family name and recognition. We are also given the awesome responsibility to live up to the expectations that go along with being a child of God. If it is a matter of rank, deference goes to the child of the King, and "that is what we are."

- Tim Woodward

- > "Having a sharp tongue may cut your own throat!"

- > "It is a sick society where babies are as disposable as diapers!"

- > "He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!"

- > "Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it!"

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: "*Undeserved Favor!*" (Text: Matt. 20:1-16); Sunday evening: *Bi-monthly Singing!*