**The Hearing Heart – Parable of the sower**, by Pastor Picchi, 03/05/2017

**Matthew 13:1-23**

1. Did you know that God has created you with more than just ears to hear his proclaimed word, and He’s given you more than just eyes to read his written word? Did you know that you and I are part of God’s awesome work of creation, and He has created us with the capacity to listen to Him? Sometimes we need to step back and ask ourselves if we are exercising our God-given gift of listening. Jesus believed that hidden underneath the rocks and the weeds in our soils (in our hearts) there is not only this potential to hear from the Living God, but to receive his message, and respond to his message, and then reproduce his message.

**Q1- Please share a story about your listening with your ears but not your heart**

2. God’s conversations with us always get back to the same subject: The Kingdom of God, His rule and reign in our hearts. Everyday there are new opportunities for fresh communication about the next steps His strategy to grow His rule and reign in our hearts. He is creative. He uses our life experiences and speaks into them making them opportunities to discover, discern, and do His will.

**Q2- What are some recent opportunities you have experienced God speaking to you.**

**Q3 -What do you think would happen if Jesus got a hold of 100% of your heart today? What kind abundance do you imagine we would see in your life after a month? a year? a decade?**

**Q4 -What kind of abundance do imagine we would see if church-wide Jesus had 100% of our hearts?**

*3.* In our teaching this week we learned that God desired for not only our ears to hear His message, but our hearts. He desired a hearing heart!

When the Lord asked Solomon to choose the one blessing he desired the most, the king responded, “Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people” (1 King 3:9).

The word ‘mind’ means the seat of intellect, emotion, and will. The Hebrew means a listening or hearing heart That is what Jesus wanted for everyone on that seashore, and he wants its for us today. Later, in His explanations to His disciples, He revealed what that meant:

“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matt 13:23).

Mark’s gospel stresses receptivity as the basic ingredient of the good soil.

Luke quotes Jesus

“As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15).

When we consider together, the three gospels stress that a hearing heart receives, responds, reproduces, and is relentless.

**Q5: Currently how are our hearts doing at receiving & responding from our Heavenly Father? And together as a cell group how are we doing at bearing fruit (reproducing) and yielding a supernatural harvest for others to enjoy?**