

# Mark 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

## Analysis

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Jesus concludes the parable: 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.' This isn't merely physical hearing but spiritual comprehension and obedient response. The phrase 'hath ears' (ἔχει ὦτα) assumes everyone has physical ears, but spiritual hearing requires God-given capacity. The command 'let him hear' (ἀκούετω, imperative) calls for active, attentive listening that leads to transformation. This formula appears repeatedly in Scripture (Mark 4:23; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22), emphasizing responsibility to respond rightly to revealed truth. The call distinguishes genuine disciples from curious crowds—disciples hear and obey.

## Historical Context

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Rabbis commonly ended parables with proverbial sayings inviting reflection. Jesus' formula invites deeper engagement with the parable's meaning. The disciples later ask for explanation (Mark 4:10), demonstrating that even they needed help understanding. This pattern continues—Jesus teaches in parables that simultaneously reveal truth to receptive hearts while concealing it from hard hearts (Mark 4:11-12). Early church emphasized hearing and doing God's word (James 1:22-25), not mere intellectual knowledge.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does your hearing of Scripture translate into obedient action, not merely intellectual understanding?
2. What prevents you from truly 'hearing' God's word with responsive, transforming faith?
3. How can you cultivate spiritual ears that perceive and respond to God's voice?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἔλεγεν	αὐτοῖς,	Ὁ	ἔχων	ὦτα	ἀκούέτω	ἀκούέτω
And	he said	unto them	G3588	He that hath	ears	let him hear	let him hear
G2532	G3004	G846		G2192	G3775	G191	G191

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 11:15** (Parallel theme): He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

**Revelation 3:6** (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Revelation 3:22** (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Revelation 3:13** (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Luke 8:18** (Parallel theme): Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

**Matthew 15:10** (Parallel theme): And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand:

**Matthew 13:9** (Parallel theme): Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

**Mark 4:3** (Parallel theme): Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

