

Something to Hang On

And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, And could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

Luke 19: 47,48

Do you remember when you were young and climbed a tree for the first time? The challenge and possibly fear, motivated you to grab the branches with all of your might. After gaining a little confidence you would even daringly hang from a branch dangling above the ground. Your determination was so strong, preventing you from letting go. In today's verse the word attentive has the root meaning *to hang from*.

Near the end of His earthly ministry, the Lord zealously entered the temple and purged it from hypocritical defilement. He re-established the prayerful purpose of the temple, rebuking those that had made it a den of thieves. While Jesus daily continued to teach in the temple, the religious leaders sought to destroy him. For that moment His life was preserved for *His time was not yet fulfilled*, and many of the people were hanging on to the words that He spoke. Salvific words of hope, love, and purpose captivated the attention of many of the people. As it says in John 7: 46, "Never man spake like this man". His message of true faith in God, and words of a heavenly kingdom, caused many to replace dead religion with a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father. Many saw the eternal importance of Jesus' message, attracting them to hang on His every word.

Although we don't have the privilege of physically seeing or hearing the Lord Jesus, we do have His powerful words. The narrative of His life, His sermon on the mount, the upper room discourse, His intercessory prayer, His parables, and His many conversations and interactions, have been preserved for our instruction and inspiration. Do we take advantage of the amazing opportunity to hear Him, or is our attitude just casual toward reading the Bible? The greater our interest and investment in His teachings, the greater our benefit. Remember that the Lord said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear". If we can, each time we take up His word, imagine ourselves at the Lord's feet, and attentively listen to the words of life flowing from His lips. This could revolutionize our walk with Him!

Today and everyday we are invited to come and hear the words of the Lord. As we open the pages may we also open our ears and hearts, and hang on His every word.

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