Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Matthew 11:15 “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” This is the Word of God. (Cross Reference – Matthew 11:16; 13:9,43, Mark 4:9, 23; 7:16, Luke 8:8; 14:35; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17,29; 3:6,13,22)

Dear brother and sister in Christ Jesus

Illustration “Listen” (Show can you hear me now?)

An older couple had an ongoing semi-serious discussion about which one of them was losing their hearing. As time went on this became quite a bone of contention between them. The husband decided he would settle the issue once and for all. While his wife was enjoying a book in the living room he said in a loud voice, “Dear, would you like a cup of tea?” Upon hearing no response he progressed to the next room and said again in a firm voice, “Dear, would you like a cup of tea?” Still there was no reply from his wife. Lastly he went into the living room and stood directly behind the chair in which his wife was sitting. In an even louder voice he repeated, “Dear, would you like a cup of tea?” She turned to him with a slightly annoyed expression on her face and replied, “For the third time......Yes!”

(Illustration: Thing are not always as they appear to be)

I. Most of us can hear it clearly or there are times when we can’t hear at all or those other time that we just chose not to hear. In today Gospel Lesson, Jesus has just made it very clear what John and his ministry were really all about. John was the prophesied forerunner for the Messiah. (Show John the Baptist and Jesus)

John became the capstone of all of the prophets that had spoken throughout human history. They had all been pointing toward that moment in time when the Messiah would come. Part of that coming was the coming of “Elijah” not in person or a reincarnation, but the spirit and mantle of that powerful prophet. From that point in His speech, Jesus changes focus
and directs His listeners’ attention on what the fulfillment of John’s ministry should indicate to them and what it actually means. Jesus has validated John’s life and his ministry and told His audience, “This is what you have been waiting for. Now, pay very close attention to what I am saying to you “Whoever has ears, let them hear.”” (Matthew 11:15) (Show picture of nose operation)

Today I’m going to take us in a little different perspective in regard to hearing God. Many people today at some point in their life want to change about themselves. Some want to change their nose, tummy tuck, eyes or others part of their bodies by enlarged it or shrunk it. People often think that will change their life or their life style if they go through such operation. Have you ever think that one area of your body to change is your ear? Some of you probably thinking, “My ears are not nice like others, my ears are too small or too big.” (Show all ears)

We make comment like, “I’m all ears!” when someone talk to us. Are we really hearing and listening to the other person. What about God’s Word to you, “Are you listening to God? Listening and doing what He asked of you to further His Kingdom?” If you are not hearing God’s Word, maybe your ear need “augmentation – that is to enlarge it” so you can hear God’s better. Now before you get all worried, God is probably not going to physically change the size of your ears, but He does want you to better be able to hear Him.

II. In today Gospel Lesson Jesus said, (Show listening)

“Whoever has ears, let them hear.” (Matthew 11:15; 13:9, 43) and in Revelation, the Apostle John write, “He who has ear let him hear” (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29: 3:6, 22). God wants people to hear Him and what He has to say. In a sense, we need to turn our attention to see what God’s saying to us. Maybe we do need our ear “augmentation – that is to enlarge it” so we can hear him better. In order to do this, we need a Pre-op just like a preparation before a surgery can take place. (Show pre-op)

Pre-op - First, you need to hear God’s Word (Romans 10). The Apostle John write “Whoever
belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” (John 8:47) You may say that you are a Christians a follow of Christ, come to church every week, read your Bible everyday, give money to support the church, work and help the poor, but are you truly hearing believing and trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? (John 3:16). (Show Jose Cubero)

Second, You need to humble yourself and if you take pride in yourself that you know how to be righteous and holy. Pride will stab you on the back and will lead you the wrong path of life. Jose Cubero, one of Spain’s most brilliant matadors said “Pali, this bull has killed me” before he lost consciousness and died. Only 21 years old, he had been enjoying a spectacular career. However, in this 1958 bullfight, Jose made a tragic mistake. He thrust his sword a final time into a bleeding, delirious bull, which then collapsed. Considering the struggle finished, Jose turned to the crowd to acknowledge the applause. The bull, however, was not dead. It rose and lunged at the unsuspecting matador, its horn piercing his back and puncturing his heart. (Craig Brian Larson) You see, just when we think we’ve finished off pride and just when we think we know it all, pride will stabs us in the back. The Psalmist wrote, “He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” (Psalm 25:9) Instead of pride in yourself, you need to humble yourself and let the Lord lead you to the path of righteous. You need God’s wisdom and hear his teaching so that it can direct your lives to live and humble before God in all time and in all places.

III. Just as we have a Pre-op preparing for operation, we need a Post-op after the operation. (Show post-op)

Whenever you leave the hospital, you are going to have certain things that need you to follow up in order for you to take care of yourselves. Like keeping the surgery area clean and bandages. Physical therapy to regain your strength and taking the necessary medication and follow up with the doctor to make sure that you are properly taken care off for your recovery. In a similar way, when we hear the Gospel, God call us to faith and we need to learn and using what we have heard, learn and putting our faith and trusting our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Show 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

How are we to do this? First, Be in the Word. The Apostle Paul second letter to Timothy said, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for
teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

You can grow and learn to see, hear, and understand God’s Word.

(Show Hearers vs. Doer)

The Apostle James write, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.” (James 1:22-25) Not just hearing the Word, you need to apply to your lives and live it.

(Show Philippians 1:9-11)

Second, Be in prayer and ask God for His knowledge and wisdom. Paul said, “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11)

In a sense, let the Lord give you an ear augmentation and with the help of the Holy Spirit, you may hear and do what He has say to you.

(Video – He who has ears (to hears), let him hear)

(Show up, in, and out)

In our text, Jesus letting everyone know and hear that the prophecy is being fulfilled in that very hour. It is also say the same thing to you and I today. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, God had given us ear so we can hear His Word to prepare our heart and mind so that we can be a doer. That is to live out the life of faith in God, sharing His love in the community and throughout the world that will bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen
Hymn Worship Services for December 15, 2013

Theme: “Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear” - Matthew 11:15”
Rev. Lang Yang

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Early Service

#345  Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
#867  Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds
#659  Lord of Our Life

Late Service

#345  Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
#867  Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

Communion hymn

#398  Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
#602  The Gifts Christ Freely Gives
#690  Hope of the World

Wednesday Service

3rd Wednesday in Advent services
School Christmas Program