



Listen Carefully!

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Scripture: 2 Chronicles 18

Idea: What and who you listen to will influence what you do.

Visual: Bose® QuietComfort® headphones. They tune the world out and tune the music in. You can create your own world and ignore reality. I meet people all the time who seem to be doing that financially, professionally, and relationally. It's as if they were listening to something or somebody whose advice is completely detached from reality. We were all that way at 15. You watch 'em and think, "Who are you listening to?"

Tension: So what if we listen to the wrong voices?

Introduction

1. Say with me: What and who I listen to will influence what I do.
2. All of us can think of actions we took based on the advice of or while under the influence of another person:
 - Parents
 - Coaches, teachers, professors
 - Financial planners, consultants, mentors,
 - Boyfriends, roommates, spouses, pastors, counselors . . .

What and who you listen to will influence what you do.

3. The challenge, of course, is to determine which voices to listen to and which ones to filter out. But one thing is certain:

What and who you listen to . . .

4. Every stage of life brings its own challenges in this area:
 - When we are teenagers, we really don't want to listen to anybody over twenty. Adults are idiots. So, we lean into the advice of our peers. The dumbest thing you ever did as a kid . . . I'll bet you weren't alone.
 - When we are in college, we think we know everything.
 - Dating. People shake their heads and we think, "Seen his car?"
 - First job: Somebody gave you good financial advice and you ignored it. You were consumed with your spending potential.
5. At every stage of life, there is a fresh temptation to listen to the wrong people.
6. To some extent, all of us are where we are emotionally, financially, and relationally because of who we tuned in and who we tuned out. And most of us wish we could go back and dial some people out and others in. Just about every husband wishes he had listened to his wife about something.

So for the next three weeks, we are going to talk about the voices that are influencing us. To begin, I want to read you a story from the Old Testament about a leader who didn't know good advice when he heard it.