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## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Throughout His teachings, Jesus commented numerous times, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." In Mark 18, Jesus got even more specific when He asked, "Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?" It's a good question for all of us to consider.

Steven Morris was a special needs blind child in Mrs. Bernaducci's class. His handicap negatively impacted his self-esteem. However, over a period of time, the teacher realized that Steven had exceptional hearing. One day she put the class mascot, a mouse, into the trash can. The scratching noise created a minor panic until Steven located the mouse. Mrs. Bernaducci exclaimed: "Steven, you are truly a wonder."

The nickname caught on. The next year little Stevie Wonder, full of a sense of his own value, began playing the piano. Stevie 'Wonder' would go on to influence and change American music in part because of Mrs. Bernaducci's faith and encouragement for him to use his ability to listen and apply it. Those who have ears, let them hear.

An American Indian was in downtown New York, walking with his friend who lived in New York City. Suddenly he said, "I hear a cricket." "Oh, you're crazy," his friend replied. "No, I hear a cricket. I do! I'm sure of it." "It's the noon hour. There are people bustling around, cars honking, taxis squealing, noises from the city. I'm sure you can't hear it." "I'm sure I do," came the reply.

The Cherokee listened attentively and then walked to the corner, across the street, and looked around. Finally on the corner he found a shrub in a large cement planter. He dug beneath the leaves and found a cricket. His friend was astounded. But the Cherokee said, "No. My ears are no different than yours. It simply depends on what you are listening to. Here let me show you." He reached into his pocket and pulled out a handful of change—a few quarters, some nickels, and pennies. Then he dropped them on the concrete. Every head within a block turned. "You see what I mean?" he said as he began picking up his coins. "It all depends on what you are listening for."

Not only must we as Christians have "ears to hear" (Matt. 13:9), but we must learn what to listen for. Those who have ears, let them hear.