

HOW TO LISTEN TO A SERMON

BEFORE

1. Pray to the Lord, before, during, and after the sermon
2. Pray for the preacher, and their preparation of the sermon ALL WEEK
3. Read the words of Scripture from an actual Bible before the service
4. Pay close attention to the actual words of scripture as they are read.
5. Don't listen out of curiosity, but out of a sincere desire to know and do your duty
6. Expect God to speak
7. Admit to yourself that God knows better than you

DURING

8. Hear the sermon in church, as part of the total service of worship; repeat as often as possible
9. Don't have any prejudice towards the preacher. They are speaking in the name of Christ. Even of the Pharisees Jesus said to do as they say and not as they do
10. Don't think too highly of the preacher. They are a servant of the Lord, also a sinner being transformed by God's grace as we all are; not a celebrity or star
11. Pay attention to apply to your own heart the message that is delivered
12. Pay attention to your distracting thoughts or emotions: if they tend to identify sin or areas of correction in your life, or suggest good actions you ought to take, note them to think about later, and return to the sermon. If they are thoughts about how to apply the sermon to someone else, reject them
13. Pay attention. Sit in the least distracting spot.
14. Put your phone away. (Unless you are taking notes)

AFTER

15. Take notes. At least one take-away phrase or sentence
16. Formulate at least one action step
17. Think about your action step as you offer yourself to the Lord at the Eucharist