

For the Love of an Imperative Verb

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year A, RCL

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying, “**Listen** [ιδού, **ιδού**], a sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears **listen** [ἀκούετω, **akouétō**].”

¹⁸“**Hear** [ἀκούσατε, **akousate**] then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was grown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in the one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” [NRSV89]

13:3

ιδού, **ιδού**; *vb*: 2nd aor mid **imperative** 2nd pers sg from ὀράω:

translations: **listen** [NRSV89, NJB], also **behold** [NGEINT, NKJV; Filson], **he aqui** [IAAdNT], not translated in ESV, NAB, NIV11, or Albright & Mann

13:9

ἀκούετω, **akouétō**; *vb*: pres act **imperative** 3rd pers sg from ἀκούω:

translations: **listen** [NRSV89; Albright & Mann], **should listen** [NJB], also **hear** [ESV], **let . . . hear** [NGEINT, NIV11, NKJV; Filson], **ought to hear** [NAB], **οίγα** [IAAdNT]

13:18

ἀκούσατε, **akóúsate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from ἀκούω:

translations: **hear** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NKJV; Filson], also **listen to** [NGEINT], **listen**
. . . **to** [NIV11, Albright & Mann], **pay attention to** [NJB], **οἶδ** [IAdNT]

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