

# MONDAY, 25TH AUGUST 1997

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

*a period of quiet reflection*

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**Psalm 119** is the psalm that most expresses readiness to hear. Any of its verses would form a good repetitive phrase for praying.

**Psalm 139** deepens the notion of attentiveness to the Creator: he has formed us in his image, and the peaceful way to live the life he has given to us is to live according to his design.

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### Some questions to weigh:

*Is the habit of listening to God a constant part of my daily experience?*

What is the quality of my attention to Scripture, to the Office, to Liturgy?  
Think of the Word of God in Genesis: behind every act of creation, God speaks.  
Do I hear his Word in the being, in the words, of others?

*Does my way of listening to God help others to hear him?*

People can sense our attentiveness to God (or the lack of it).  
If we listen to one another with the attentiveness due to God, they will take more seriously the theory that they are made in God's likeness.

*Isaiah's servant is given "a disciple's tongue" - the speech of one who has been taught (Is 50:4-10).*

A disciple who teaches mediates his *listening* even as he is speaking  
Can my teaching mediate this kind of learning - or do I need the style of some other kind of authority? Do I have the power to listen, and to speak humbly?

*How well do I relate to authority-figures in the Church?*

The Church has all the problems of a human community, a human structure.  
Yet it is an historic communion with divine dimensions. Can I help to make these dimensions visible, by the way I respond to the leadership of others?

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*These thoughts are only a helping hand. If they don't help, make a paper plane out of them.*