More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: CLent5x2019

Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21 • Psalm 126 • Philippians 3:4b-14 • John 12:1-8

MATH Smart

The ability to work with numbers, formulae, and logic. Mathematical/Logical people enjoy charts, graphs, statistics, and logical constructs and arguments. While we usually confine our number crunching at church to operations, budgets, and attendance figures, there are plenty of mathematical relationships in stories and parables in scripture that will preach. Relationships can be diagrammed. The logical arguments of a sermon will connected with them, too. We tend to include references to the law here (because logic) and also science and technology, which can provide plenty of SFX.
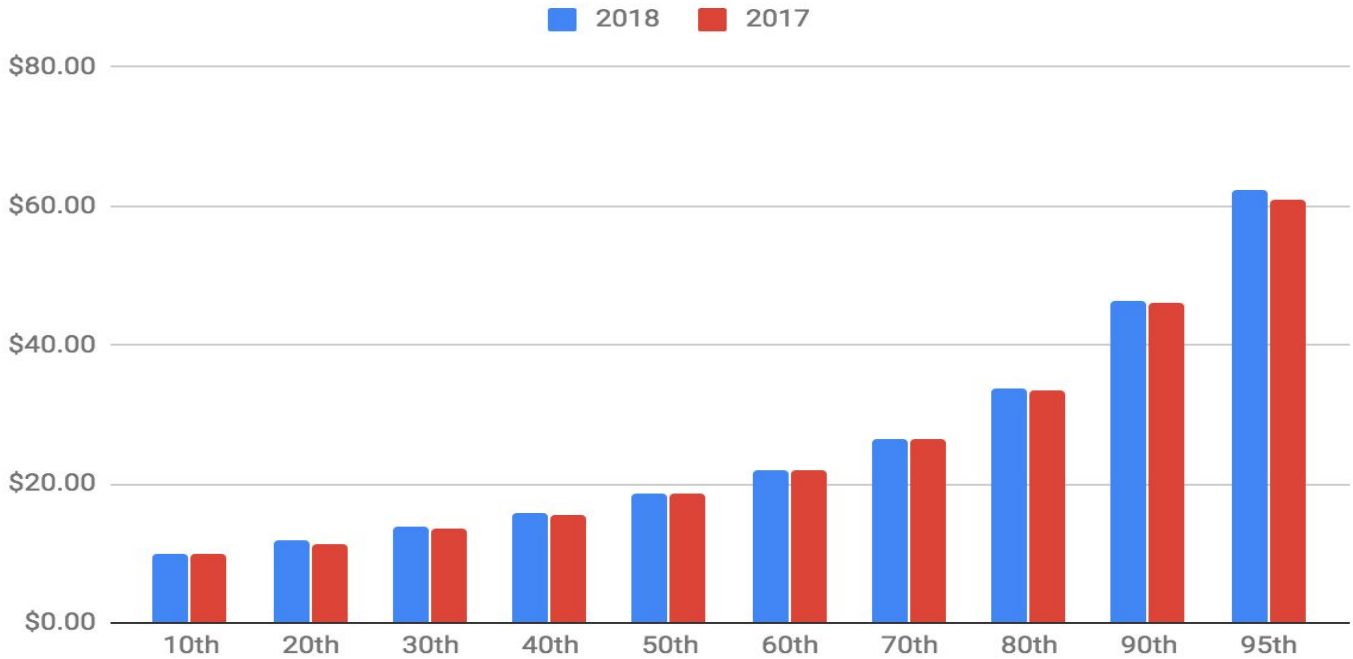
Text: **John 12:1-8**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
MATH smart		See the worksheet from our show in 2016 for the most obvious math on this passage: converting the cost of the nard into today's money. Based on figures for hourly wages from the Economic Policy Institute, 300 daily wages in US 2018 would be somewhere between $24k and $44. For	Show the math and the chart below to establish a range of value for the nard perfume. Invite people to consider the math for their own financial situation, working out 300 days pay. What would they think to do with a lump sum of that amount? Would it include an act of devotion to Christ?

| | | unskilled workers, probably closer to the lower end of that scale. See the chart below.

[Some history of the denarius](), including its estimated worth. In terms of its silver content, it works out to about US$2, so 300 D would be $600.

[Denarius is a cryptocurrency](), currently worth between 5¢ and 18¢ US. While this has no connection to the historical value, 300 D works out to be $15-$48.

MATH Smart is also about logic. This passage contrasts Mary's compassion and humble devotion to Jesus with Judas' logic about cost/benefit ratios, whatever his motivation. This is an ongoing struggle in the Church, to find the right balance between acts of mercy, devotion, and compassion and the logical assessment of distribution of limited resources. In this case there is a pretty direct statement of which is the correct answer, although it is not always so clear cut.

Also, note the logical fallacy that often follows this passage, that since "you always have the poor with you," then there is no point in sacrificial giving to help them. False! The correct | *A bit of **SELF** Smart in this last part.* |

		logical result is "you always have the opportunity to help them."	

2018

Wage Percentile	Hourly Wage	Hours / day	Daily Wage	300 Days Wages
50	$18.72	8	$149.76	$44,928.00
40	$15.95	8	$127.60	$38,280.00
30	$13.89	8	$111.12	$33,336.00
20	$11.90	8	$95.20	$28,560.00
10	$10.06	8	$80.48	$24,144.00
Average	$14.10	8	$112.83	$33,849.60

Source: Economic Policy Institute website
https://www.epi.org/blog/average-wage-growth-continues-to-flatline-in-2018-while-low-wage-workers-and-those-with-relatively-lower-levels-of-educational-attainment-see-stronger-gains/

Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
MATH smart		Consider the things that might give us "confidence in the flesh" in our culture, that is various status symbols or stations, and assign point values to each. Car, house, job, college, resumé, awards, certificates, etc. Assign more point to the more prestigious items. Tally up. Give "knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" a lot more points than that.	← See the example below. *NB: Be pastorally sensitive to who is in your congregation, their status levels, and their reliance on status. Make clear that your point system is a reflection of cultural norms, not your pastoral norms. The point is to show how useless these status points are in the eyes of Christ.* You could also do this with the old balance scales.

Status	Car	College	House	Location	Job	Phone	TV
Rolls	100						
Mercedes	80						
BMW	70						
Toyota	60						

Chevy	40						
Ford	30						
Havard		100					
Yale		95					
VT		150					
UVA		25					
CC		10					
Which one?			100				
Mansion			90				
McMansion			60				
Townhouse			40				
Duplex			30				
Trailer			10				
Paris				100			
DC NW				90			
Alexandria				80			
Waterford				75			
Charles Town				50			
Ranson				20			
President					100		
CEO					90		
CFO					85		
Manager					70		
Sales					40		
Floor					20		
iPhone X						100	
Galaxy S10						90	
iPhone 8						75	
Galaxy J3						50	
Flip						30	
Landline						10	
84"							100
72"							90
60"							70
50"							50
42"							30
CRT							10

Text: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
   we were like those who dream.
2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
   and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
   "The Lord has done great things for them."
3 The Lord has done great things for us,
   and we rejoiced.

4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
   like the watercourses in the Negeb.
5 May those who sow in tears
   reap with shouts of joy.
6 Those who go out weeping,
   bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
   carrying their sheaves.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
MATH smart		Vss. 1, 4 – If you had all your money in the stock market on October 24-29, 1929 (Great Crash), you would likely have been wiped out, as many people were. Imagine going from wealth enough to invest heavily to nothing. Imagine, after a period of suffering the resulting deprivation, some Rockefeller comes along and gives you as much money as you had lost in the crash with no strings attached. Similar scenarios: • Getting swindled out of your life savings • Having your pension disappear when your	

		former company goes under • Discovering someone has stolen your identity and run through all your cash and run up enormous debts in your name • Getting overly enthusiastic in a bidding war with your older brother and his friend while playing Monopoly, only to have them stop bidding when you have overreached your assets, bankrupting you and removing you from the game no I'm not still bitter shut up. *A good bit of* **SELF** *Smart here, too.*	

Text: Isaiah 43:16-21

16 Thus says the Lord,
   who makes a way in the sea,
   a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
   army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
   they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things,
   or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
   now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
   and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
   the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
   rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21   the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
MATH smart	V. 16 – Making a way in the sea is presumably the Red Sea crossing, where the army, chariots, and horses were extinguished. V. 19 – Making a way in the wilderness as a new thing is presumably a return path from exile?	← Making a way in the sea or in the wilderness could pose some navigational headaches in the ancient world before the invention of the magnetic compass, invented by the Chinese around 2nd c. BCE, and known to be used for navigation in the Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE). Otherwise, navigation was a matter of landmarks and astronomical knowledge. *This is admittedly a pretty weak connection to the text and to **MATH** Smart, but **MATH** for the science and inventive thought needed to develop*	⇐ Bring in a navigation compass or display one as you talk about God's ability to make a way in uncharted places.

		technology. Another science connection would be to use a concave mirror to produce an inverted image, flipped up-down and left-right. This would be like the mirror inversion in the text of God making a dry path in the sea and rivers in the desert. If you can't lay your hands on a concave mirror (shaving or makeup mirror), you could use a double-convex lens (magnifying glass), which at the right distance will produce an inverted image. [Here's a video](#) that explains the physics of these reflected images for mirrors and [this one](#) for lenses pretty thoroughly. *Borrowed inspiration for this from 2016 NATURE; used here as MATH for science, but obviously has EYE elements, too.*	← Do this.