

Wilshire Rabbit

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Far, far away in a place called The Great Woods lived a large colony of fuzzy brown rabbits. There were big rabbits and small rabbits, short rabbits and tall rabbits, fat rabbits and skinny rabbits. There were momma rabbits and papa rabbits, boy rabbits and girl rabbits, young rabbits and old rabbits. To put it simply, there were lots and lots of rabbits. But today only one rabbit remains. What happened to the others?

Although there were many different kinds of rabbits, all the rabbits had one thing in common. They all had little tiny ears. All, that is, except Wilshire. How come?

Wilshire was different. Wilshire had long pointed ears. And why did Wilshire have long pointed ears? Because he listened to every sound in the forest.

Listening is important in the forest. There are good sounds to hear like the chirping of birds and the buzzing of bees, but there are bad sounds too. When one hears the sound of Wiley Ol' Fox one needs to beware. Danger is nearby.

Because Wilshire used his ears, Wilshire was a wise rabbit. He knew when it is safe to go out, and he knew when it is time to come in. He knew when danger was nearing, and he knew when to scurry for safety.

But the other rabbits didn't use their ears. They spent all their time thinking 'bout themselves. After all, fuzzy brown rabbits do need to look beautiful, handsome, and important, don't they? Since the fuzzy brown rabbits didn't use their ears they didn't need to be long and pointed. So little by little, over a long time, their ears shrank smaller and smaller until finally they were just little points on the top of their heads.

One day Wilshire was off in the woods when a troubling sound passed by. Wiley Ol' Fox was in the forest. He was looking for fuzzy brown rabbits.

Wilshire hopped into action. He raced about the woods thumping his feet and spreading the alarm. But nobody listened. The fuzzy brown rabbits were too busy spreading their charm. Once again Wilshire sounded the alarm. Still nothing happened. Finally, at the last possible moment, Wilshire dove for the safety of his den. But what about the others? What about the fuzzy brown rabbits? They just kept primping, and strutting, and admiring their charm.

For the next few days life was simply wonderful, for Wiley Ol' Fox, that is. Wiley walked freely about the neighborhood plucking fuzzy brown rabbits and putting them in his tucker bag. It was so easy it wasn't even fun. One by one the fuzzy brown rabbits were snatched from the woods until none were left. None, that is, except Wilshire who was safe in his den.

Wilshire stayed hidden for several days then slowly raised his ears. First he listened to the right, then to the left. Finally he stopped in the middle. Was any danger to be found? No. Wiley was gone.

Wilshire hopped into the warm morning sun. The sounds of the forest filled his ears. The birds were chirping and the insects buzzing. That was good, and it made Wilshire very, very happy. But nowhere to be found were the fuzzy brown rabbits with the little tiny ears. That was bad, and it made Wilshire very, very sad. If only they had used their ears.

A MESSAGE FOR YOU:

When you were created, God made you with ears. Do you know why? Because he wants you to use them to hear everything he has to say.

God may speak to you in many ways. It may be through your parents, your pastor, your teachers, or others. However God chooses, listen carefully and listen closely. God will also speak to you through the Bible. Here are some examples. Study them with your parents and see what God is saying.

“ ‘This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him’ ” (Mark 9:7)!

“Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck” (Proverbs 1:8-9).

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22-25).

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

Remember, don't be like the soft fuzzy brown rabbits. Use your ears. Listen to God, heed what he says, then do it!

"THE END"