

## The Ministry of Listening

If you want to be effective for the Lord, it is essential to learn the art of listening

*"No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care"*

*-President Theodore Roosevelt*

Let's consider some of the ways that Jesus practiced effective listening.

### I. JESUS WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO AND UNDERSTAND ANOTHER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE.

He desired to learn about other's concerns, values, and spiritual condition.

We see this when he approached two men walking along the road to Emmaus.

#### **Luke 24:17-21**

The Lord knew how to ask informative questions.

Questions that allowed Him to find out what was really important to people.

If you want to be good listener learn to ask questions

that allow people to explain things from their perspective.

### II. JESUS DID NOT LISTEN TO PEOPLE JUST TO FIND SOMETHING TO CRITICIZE.

The Lord listened to people with His eyes, ears and his mind.

He showed people how important they were to Him by giving them His undivided attention.

He listened to people's emotions, ideas, and implications.

Jesus listened in a way that helped Him identify a person's need.

When Jesus' mother said to her son, "They have no more wine." Jesus said,

#### **John 2:4-9**

Jesus listened not only for the words, but for the sense of urgency in the tone of people's voices.

### III. JESUS CAST ASIDE NEGATIVE FEELINGS, HURTS, GRUDGES, OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN ORDER TO REALLY HEAR WHAT PEOPLE WERE SAYING.

In John 4 we find Jesus sitting at the well when the Samaritan woman approaches to draw water.

#### **John 4:7-9**

Jesus risked being accused of becoming ceremonially unclean if he used a drinking vessel that was handled by a Samaritan, since the Jews held that all Samaritans were unclean.

Jesus was willing to overlook this deeply embedded cultural value for the sake of reconciling one human being to God.

### IV. JESUS WAS WILLING TO LISTEN WITHOUT INTERRUPTING.

The Lord learned how to listen to His heavenly Father every morning in prayer.

#### **Mark 1:35**

Learning to listen to God through His word and in our prayer times, enables us to listen to people.

### V. JESUS LISTENED INTENTLY TO PEOPLE WHO WERE HURTING.

#### **Mark 1:32-34**

By listening to each person's specific problem Jesus showed that He desired emotional, social, and spiritual restoration as well as physical healing.

### VI. JESUS INTENTLY LISTENED IN ORDER TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT A PERSON'S SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

Jesus declared a great spiritual truth to see how well Nicodemus understood the truth.

#### **John 3:3, 4**

He was able to help Nicodemus through the wise use of questioning and the wise use of listening.

We can only learn what questions need to be asked by learning where an individual is.

We can only learn where an individual is by intently listening to the answers to those questions.

#### **Ephesians 4:14, 15**