

Calling & Sending #2

Listening



About 5 years ago I was sitting in a weekend-long soul-care conference with Larry Crabb and there was an opportunity to sit with a soul-care provider for 30 minutes. The one I met with said that he had been watching me and wondered why I was at the conference. The man's question made me respond and weep for 20 minutes and then I left. Yet, this was the most powerful 30 minutes of the past 5 years for me: All the man did was ask a question and listen to me. Listening is a powerful skill.

Friendship

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not **know his master's business**. Instead, I have called you **friends**, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made **known** to you.

Seeing someone means "I know you." When Jesus calls us, we will eventually become friends with the people you are on mission with.

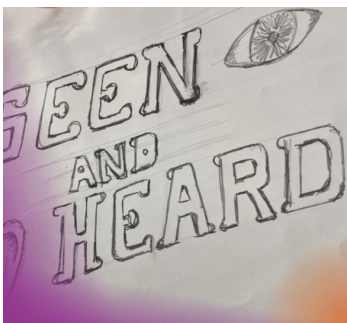
Jesus also invites us to be friends with him. Jesus defines friendship as one of disclosure: we share life together. But in our world, friendship is a foreign idea that we wrestle to understand. I want to hold onto Jesus's definition: that we disclose who we are and have a certain level of intimacy.

Jeffery Hall has studied friendship: here are his statistics. Close friends who move away are still close to you in the future because of those 200 hours of investment.

I would submit that being a community of listeners accelerates this time quickly!

How Many Hours Does It Take To Make A Friend? Study by Jeffery Hall

- 40–60 hours together to move from acquaintance to casual friend
- 80–100 hours to become friends
- More than 200 hours to become close or good friends



The Effects of Listening

- You feel less alone.
- You become less defensive.
- You understand yourself better.
- You become more connected to the person listening.

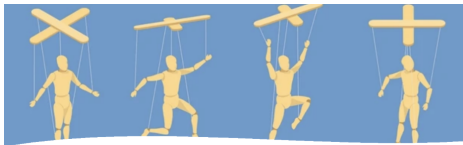
The effects of being listened to, not being cut off. If you are listened to well, you understand yourself better. That is what happened to me at the soul-care conferences. It creates a connection.

As we are called and sent out, we do it as friends together. Friends walk side by side, not master and servant. Friends disclose what they are thinking, learning, and longing for.

Mark 10:46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "**Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!**" 48 **Many rebuked him** and told him to **be quiet**, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

How we Listen is important!

- We manipulate people when we need them to **calm down, agree, change, appreciate us, follow our advice, or make us feel successful.**



Ministry vs.
Manipulation

- Manipulation asks: "How can I get you to respond in a way that makes my life work?"
- Ministry asks: "How can I seek your genuine good?"

Mark 10:49 **Jesus stopped** and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 51 "**What do you want me to do for you?**" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." 52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." **Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.**

Listen: Inwardly

- Fear
- Insecurity
- Impatience
- Defensiveness
- The need to appear wise
- The need to be appreciated
- The Holy Spirit**



appreciated and appear to be wise. To listen, you must be able to sort through these and listen to the Holy Spirit.

This is the passage you heard read this morning.

Three weeks ago in the evening, I was sitting outside, excited about meeting this group of new people. Just then, 4 year old Cleo wanted someone to swing with her. I told her we were eating...and then someone jumped up and offered to swing her. The same exact thing happened the next week. You may realize who I was in the Mark 10 passage.

We are either in **manipulate mode** or **ministry mode**:

Manipulation is how I can get you to respond in a way that makes my life work. This will affect your ability to know what is really going on.

With Cleo, I had an agenda of getting to know the people I was eating with and she was in the way. The way I was engaging her was for my benefit, not hers. As a side note, whenever you are struggling, you are in the mindset of manipulation, not ministry. To be an effective listener, you must have a ministry mindset: otherwise, your goal is not about them, it's about you.

Eric did not stop and make room for Cleo. He made his need to control the moment greater than the other person's needs.

In martial arts, you must have a stance, otherwise, you will be in trouble if someone tries to kick you. Your legs will be splayed and you will get punched and knocked out.

In listening, you must also know the conversations going on inside you so you can listen well. Here is a list of the conversations you might be having. You can't hear the other person if you are defensive. Internally, you might need to be

Love and Impact

Romans 8:15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

If you are a follower of Jesus, the Spirit is in you and on you. This Spirit does not make you slaves controlled by fear. What God says over and over is that you God's child, his son or daughter. You can call him "Dad." You are loved and you have impact. The Holy Spirit will say this to you over and over. This begins to drown out the voices if you listen. As you listen to the Spirit, you become a better listener.

Love and Impact

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live**, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me and gave himself for me**.

Gal 2:20: You've been crucified means it's about Jesus, not about you. When you are a listener, you realize he also loves other people as well. But first we must listen inwardly. If I had been doing this, I may have been able to care for Cleo.



Listen to the Person

also need to give this to others. We spend a lot of time trying to figure this out without asking them.

You must listen to the person: Jesus asked, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The purpose of this question gives the man dignity and agency: you get to decide what you want. You get to ask for it. This is important because the blindness was obvious but it may not have been what he really wanted. Jesus gives us this dignity of stating what we actually want and we

Jesus Stops and makes room for Bartimaeus.

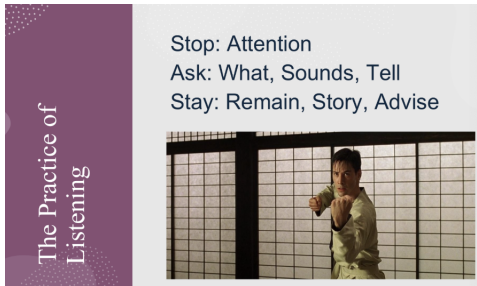
Listening begins when a person becomes more significant than **our need to control the moment**.



Proverbs 20:5 The purposes of a person's heart are **deep waters**, but one who has **insight** draws them out.

Part of giving a person agency is to listen to what they are actually saying. Look at this list carefully. For example, a person's anxiety covers up what is really going on with them.

1. Their first answer may not be the full answer.
2. Their anger may have grief beneath it.
3. Their criticism may conceal disappointment.
4. Their certainty may be holding together a great deal of anxiety.
5. Their excitement may come from a deep connection to Jesus.



How do we do this? STOP, ASK, STAY.

1. **STOP** We all tend to have trouble focusing on the conversation in front of us. This takes discipline and practice.
2. We need to ask questions that don't use the word, "why?" which tends to get you nothing. It brings frustration. Instead, **WHAT, SOUNDS LIKE, TELL ME MORE** are better. If you don't know what to say, just say "Tell me more!"
3. **STAY:** Remain in their story and don't think about your story. Don't think about solving or advising them; these don't build friendships.

The Effects of Listening Well:

James 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

1. **Listening is different from agreement.** We may eventually encourage, challenge, correct, pray, or offer help.
2. **We listen first so our response can be shaped** by love rather than assumption.

Our mode should be listening well and being slow to speak. Practicing these actually leads us to be slow to anger!

The effect is that our responses are shaped by love rather than defensiveness, anger, and advice.

Listening: Eyes and ears on Jesus

52 "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and **followed Jesus along the road.**

Don't forget that the man who was healed from blindness now followed Jesus into Jerusalem to see him crucified.

My wife heard about a woman who teaches on healing from a wheelchair...someone asked when she was speaking up front "If Jesus heals, why didn't he heal her?" After the conference, she found the person and asked them to pray for her. And she was healed!! But then she had other consequences, including the

loss of her marriage. The point is that we don't get to control the effect: when we listen, we don't get to control the results of how God will impact someone and what happens in their life.

•Simply being around someone for a long time does not necessarily create friendship. What we do with that time, and how we engage each other while we are together, is what forms friendship

The many hours spent in friendship are a good time of substance. Just being around a person doesn't create friendship: it's what we do with the time. We must be people who take advantage of that time. This is when we become friends on a mission together. Here at the Village, we want you to come early and leave late: we want you to sit outside and push kids on the swing and ask questions that matter. This enables us to bring the kingdom to others as well.

Review

1

Be Present

2

Be Curious

3

Listen to the
Holy Spirit
while you listen
to people.



Be present and be curious. Listen to the Holy Spirit while you listen.