

Rhythm - Living on Mission in Your Everyday Life

Week 4 Listen

Being a Christian isn't just about our eternity. It's also about living life on mission for Jesus.

- **How do we become good listeners?**

Listening is considered a virtue in the Bible.

One of the most famous verses for Jewish people is called "The Great Shema."
Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)

Hearing or the act of listening, really listening, is how we become a Christ follower in the first place.
Romans 10:17 (NLT)

Christians should be known as good listeners.
James 1:19 (NLT)

Job vocalizes what people who are suffering need.
Job 31:35 (NLT)

The God of the Bible listens to us. He hears us.
Psalm 116:1-2 (NLT)

"Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable." — David Augsburger, *Caring Enough to Hear and Be Heard*

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them. Just as love for God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brothers is learning to listen to them. It is (because of) God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is his work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

What makes listening so hard?

Technology

Selfishness

Pride and Shame

"To listen is very hard, because it asks of us so much interior stability that we no longer need to prove ourselves by speeches, arguments, statements, or declarations. True listeners no longer have an inner need to make their presence known. They are free to receive, to welcome, to accept. Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting

for a chance to respond. Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening is that, those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their words more seriously and discovering their own true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with them.” — Henri Nouwen

Jesus modeled Incarnational Learning.
Leaving. Serving. Sacrificing. Returning.

Some practical things we can do to become a good listener:

1. Put the technology away.
2. Body language
3. Ask good questions.
4. Don't feel the need to say anything.

“I love the Lord because he hears my voice...”
Psalm 116:1a (NLT)