

BLESS: Listen Intentionally

(Luke 18:35-43)

Introduction.

We live in a world where hardly anybody really listens. Most people are more interested in what they have to say than what someone else has to say. This reminds me of a famous quote on this topic: “The opposite of listening is not speaking, it’s waiting to speak.” Isn’t that true? Do you ever find yourself in a conversation and you are looking at the person’s lips moving, but you have no idea what they are saying because you are thinking about what you are going to say next? I’ve done it! Too many times I’m not really listening closely to people. I’m just cueing up my next words.

Or maybe you’ve been on the other side of that conversation. Have you ever felt like the other person in your conversation was not listening at all? We’ve all been part of conversations where the other person was saying “Yeah, yeah, uh-huh,” but we knew they weren’t really listening to anything that we were saying.

The Bible has much to say about listening, not the least of which is James 1:19, “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry”

Contextualize this SERMON in the B.L.E.S.S. series

Contextualize Luke 18:35-43

I. The Priority of Listening

Principle: Life is not judged successful based on your accomplishments, but by the lives you help touch with the gospel of Christ.

- A) Schedule To Keep (to-do list)
(We need to build margin into our schedules.)
- B) A Crowd To Serve (busy)
- C) A Voice to Hear

II. The Process of Listening

- A) Recognized the Important (18:40a)
(Jesus could hear the voice of the man, because he first heard the voice of the Father.)
- B) Prioritized The Man's Needs (18:4b)
- C) He Listened Intentionally (18:41)

- THE MAILBOX STORY

III. The Product of Listening

- A) A Life Was Blessed (18:42)
- B) Real Life-Change (18:43a)
- C) Testimony of Change (18:43b)

Conclusion

- A) Listen to God's voice regularly.
- B) Listen to people.
- C) Ask good open-ended questions.