



Sermon Notes: "The Lost Art of Listening"

John 4:1-38

8.3.25

The Key Principle: Understanding Prevents Misunderstanding

The Master Class on Listening:

- A. Jesus Started with Felt Needs, Not Theology or the Dirty Laundry (v. 7)
- B. Jesus Asked Questions That Drew Her Out (vv. 9-12)
- C. Jesus Listened to Deeper Needs Before Addressing Them (vv. 15-18)
- D. Jesus Saw the Harvest That Others Missed (vv. 34-38)

So What?

The 80/20 Rule for Listening:

- In any spiritual conversation, aim to listen 80% and talk 20%. Your ears might be more evangelistic than your mouth.

Two Types of Listening:

1. Surface Listening
2. Soul Listening

BLESS Framework:

- B - Begin with Prayer
- L - Listen with Care (*This week*)
- E - Eat Together
- S - Serve in Love
- S - Share Your Story

Evangelism isn't about having all the answers - it's about asking the right questions.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?
2. Darin mentioned that “even hearing aids wouldn't help - we hear fine, but our ‘listener’ got broken.” *Be honest*: What usually happens when someone shares something important with you? Are you listening to understand, or listening to respond?

READ: John 4:1-38

3. In John 4, Jesus had every reason to avoid the woman at the well, but He chose to listen first. Think of someone in your life who's easy to avoid or judge. What would it look like to approach them the way Jesus approached her?
4. The sermon talked about friends who don't believe - people you golf with, whose kids play with your kids, etc. You know **WHAT** they believe about God, but do you know **WHY**? What makes it scary to have that deeper conversation with a close friend?
5. Think about a recent conversation you had. Did it stay at surface level ('How's work?' 'Fine.')
 or go to soul level? What would it look like to practice soul listening with someone on your prayer list this week?6. Jesus said 'the fields are ripe for harvest' - there's no off-season. Who is someone you've been thinking 'isn't ready yet' to hear about Jesus? What if they're more ready than you think, and they just need someone to listen to their story first?

Specific Action Step:

This week: This week, choose ONE person from your prayer list and have ONE genuine conversation using the 80/20 rule. Your goal isn't to share the gospel - it's to learn something new about their life, dreams, or struggles. Come prepared next week to share (without using names) what you discovered when you truly listened.

Don't Forget:

- Aug 15th – Multi-Family Yard Sale hosted at ECC. See Pastor Shaun for info.
- Aug 31st -- Church at the Lake, 10:30 am – Bring lawn chairs!

Prayer:

Lord,

Forgive us for the times we've been quick to speak and slow to listen. Help us see people through Your eyes - not as projects to fix, but as hearts to understand. Give us the courage to ask good questions and the wisdom to truly hear the answers.

Teach us to listen like Jesus listened, with compassion instead of conquest. Show us this week who You want us to really hear. Help us fix our “listeners”.

In Jesus' name, Amen