

"Loving and Listening To Our Friends"

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Loving and Listening Review

Week 1: Sacrificial Love

Week 2: Solitude with the Savior

Intro Questions:

1. *What does it feel like when somebody really doesn't listen to you?*
2. *What does it feel like when somebody really does listen to you?*

A. The God Who Loves and Listens – *Do we know Him?*

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "**I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them** out of the hand of the Egyptians..." Exodus 3:1-8

Other Verses: Isaiah 55:1-2; John 10:27

Discussion Questions

3. *How would you describe the God revealed in the verses above?*
4. *How is God's hearing/listening different from ours?*

B. A People Who Love and Listen – Are we growing toward this?

ATTENTION: *Am I distracted or am I listening?*

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who **sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching**. But Martha was **distracted with much serving**. Luke 10:38-42

PERSPECTIVE: *Do I view my friends through my eyes or through God's eyes?*

From now on, therefore, **we regard no one according to the flesh**. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. 2 Corinthians 5:16

PURPOSE: *Do my friendships have a compelling purpose?*

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:12-13

PRACTICE: *How can we grow in loving and listening to our friends?*

Am I seeking to listen more and talk less? (Proverbs 10:19, 17:28; James 1:19-20)

How can I grow in listening to God and listening to people?

How can I cultivate curiosity in people?

Am I seeking to ask better questions? Am I listening to answers? (Luke 18:8; John 11:25-26)

Am I opening my heart and aiming for theirs? (John 4; 2 Corinthians 6:11)

Do I know my friends well enough that I can pray with them?

Discussion Questions

5. *What distracts you from loving and listening well?*

With God's help, what's something practical you want to do about it?

6. *Why do we need God's perspective on people if we want to love them well?*

7. *How do we cultivate relationships that get beyond chronically superficial?*

8. *What are some practical steps you can take this week to grow in love and listening?*