

## Sermon Notes

September 27, 2020

“Prayer that Quietens the Soul: Listening Prayer” -Pastor Lee

Introduction: Visual Parable – a one-sided phone conversation

- relationship requires two-way communication
- Psalm 62:8: “pour out your heart” to God
- but we also need to listen to God

1. Our basic posture before God is listening.

- James 1:19, Eccles. 5:1-2 – “let your words be few”
- yet balance with Hebrews 4:16 - “approach the throne of grace with confidence...”
- introduction to the Lord’s prayer – Matt. 6:7 - using many words does not help God hear us!
- Psalm 131 – a “weaned child” with mother – child not there to meet own needs
  - except to be close to mother

2. Jesus set the example of a listening posture in prayer.

- Mark 1:35 Jesus found solitary place to pray – to help hear only God’s voice
- Isaiah 50:4-5 prophecies that the Father “wakens [Jesus’] ear to listen”
- John 17:8 – Jesus knew what to say and do because He first listened to his Father.

3. We follow Jesus’ example by listening to his voice.

- John 10:27 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
- Luke 9:35 “Listen to him (Jesus)” above all other teachers

A way to help us listen to Jesus: Reading Scripture imaginatively, with all our faculties.

- we often jump too quickly to analyze
- need to involve our emotions, imagination, senses, spirit, as well as our intellect.
- use imagination to place ourselves inside Scripture

### How?

- choose a story from Scripture. Begin with a story of Jesus.
- pause and ask God to speak to you.
- choose a character that you could be in that story.
- first reading: pay attention to senses
- second reading: pay attention to emotions.
- third reading: pay attention to literary context and word meanings.
- then ask God “What are You saying to me?” and be still for a few minutes.
- finish by writing a prayer response to God.

Example: the story of Jesus with Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42

Challenge: Let’s love God, and listen to God “with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)

