

“Are you Listening?”
Proverbs Pt.3 - GN. 3/05/23.



Communication, at its most basic, is the process of sending and receiving information between people.

Our words are powerful.

“A wise way to live, is being careful with your words”

Good communication is an essential part of our lives

communication helps us **build relationships by allowing us to share our experiences, and needs, and helps us connect to others.**

Today we are going to talk about receiving information “What the bible tells us about listening”

The organization Science Direct did a study about listening:

- The main problem they found is that “Listening is a handicap”.

Defining listening:

- Hearing is a function
- Listening is a desire to understand.

The biggest obstacle we constantly find in listening to others is that we like to talk more than we like listen

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ *If one gives an answer before he hears, is both shameful and foolish.*

What is listening in the teachings of the Old Testament?

The Shema

Deut. 6:4-5

Hear oh Israel the Lord is our God the Lord is one and As for you you shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart with all of your soul and with all of your strength

proverbs 20:12

Ears that Shema and eyes that see, the Lord has made them both

Leah who wasn't loved by her husband Jacob

Simon or in Hebrew

Shim'on “because she says the Lord has Shema that I'm unloved”

Shema: to hear with attention or interest, it can also mean to listen to understand, to obey, “responding to what you hear”

Psalm 27:7 **Shema my voice when I call oh Lord be merciful answer me**

Hear, שְׁמַע (šə·ma')

James 1:19

¹⁹ *Understand this, my dear brothers, and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak.....*

listen, ἀκούσαι (akousai). Verb - Aorist Infinitive Active

How does listening help us to have better relationships?

1. If you listen, you will show _____ to the other person.

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ If one gives an answer before he hears, is both shameful and foolish

2. If you listen, others will see you with _____.

Proverbs 12:15

¹⁵ Fools think their own way is right but the wise listen to others.

3. When you listen, you will be able to _____ others and not just yourself.

Proverbs 18:2

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

4. If you don't have anything _____ to say "Don't say anything and listen"

Proverbs 17:28

²⁸ Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent.

Proverbs 21:23

Whoever keeps his mouth, and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

Proverbs 12:18

¹⁸ Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

Proverbs 17:27

Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

5. People will love coming to you when they know that you will _____.

Psalms 116:1-2

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

6. The more you hear, the more you _____.

Matt. 7:24

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

7. In _____ and in moments of trouble, others will trust that they can come to you because you listen to them.

Psalm 18:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

Things to take home:

"We are given two ears but only one mouth, because listening is twice as hard as talking"

Sensitive listening - Empathetic listening - Active listening - Reflective listening

- **Learn to listen objectively**

- Leave your emotions and personal perception aside
- Avoid jumping to assumptions.
- Listening doesn't mean you are going to agree with what the person is saying but it gives you a better idea about how to respond
- Avoid selective listening
- Make the effort to understand what the person is trying to communicate not what you want to understand
- Understand what the other person is going thru in their life.