

# The Ears of an Encourager



**James 1:19**

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**My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...**



# Main Points of Our lesson

- Listening involves determination
- Listening is loving
- A Christian characteristic
- Jesus, our example
- Anatomy lesson to encourage listeners
- Prayer of an encourager



# Listening Involves Determination

- Resolve to develop skills
- Appears to be easy
- How does a poor listener make you feel?
- People enjoy talking much more
- Thinking of what to say next
- Encouragers are not perfect, just proficient



# 10 Principles for effective, active listening

- Stop talking
- Prepare yourself to listen...focus
- Put the speaker at ease
- Remove distractions
- Empathize...verbally & imaginatively



# 10 Principles for effective, active listening

- Be patient—pauses & silence
- Avoid prejudice—impartiality
- Listen to tone & heart language
- Listen to ideas, not just words
- Non-verbal communication  
(sometimes we can misread!)



# Listening is Love

- Why can we make this statement?



The core problem in failed communication is selfishness.

- Unholy listening—self-interest, indifference, insensitivity

# Listening is Love

- Agape listening—sacrifice what I need to
- Listening communicates value
- Rewards of good listening
  - cements relationships
  - instills self-confidence
  - facilitates accomplishment of worthwhile aims





# Jesus, Our Example

- Where did Jesus model listening skills?
  - Bartimaeus & Mark 10:47
  - He who has ears to ear, let him hear (Mt. 13:9)
- Growth in faith and in servant leadership begins with learning how to listen!



# A Christian Characteristic

- Like God—raise our listening skills
- Historical illustration (Exodus 3:7)
- Solomon & God (1 Kings 9:3)
- Like Jesus...Eph. 4:29



Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

# James' Advice about Listening

- Context of James 1:19-20
- Be swift to hear
- Slow to speak
- Slow to wrath



# Conclusion

- An anatomy lesson for encouraging listeners
- The prayer of an encourager

