

Life Group Notes

Sunday 23rd October 2022

Speaker: David Mosimabale

Title: B.L.E.S.S. – Listen With Care

Passage: Luke 18:35 - 43

Listen – Jesus invites us to listen with care

In today's world, we hardly listen to each other, we display impatience listening to others, and instead, we hastily want to always share our opinion. We often more interested in what we have to say than what someone else has to say. When people speak or in the middle of a conversation, instead of actively listening, we are waiting for our turn to speak next, just cuing up for what we will say next.

God our father is a listening God; we are created in his image – so we have the potential to be good listeners, we just have to develop it by the help of the Spirit of God.

From our text, we see the following characters: Jesus, the crowd, and the Blind Beggar

Jesus

- In the middle of the noise, Jesus could still listen and hear the voice of the blind beggar
- He allowed himself to be interrupted from his planned trip to Jericho
- He did not assume or pre-judge knowing the need of the blind beggar which was obvious
- Jesus asked what he could do for him and listened to his answer
- He blessed the blind beggar by performing a miracle of new set of eyes – new vision for him

The Crowd

- They represented distractions by way of noise
- They wanted him to be quiet
- They had given up on him and concluded Jesus was too busy and will not have time for him
- They asked the beggar to be quiet instead of listening to his voice.... How often do we act like this crowd to the people around us needing Jesus's attention

The Blind Beggar

- He was curious and interested in what was happening around him (He listened to what was happening in the place he was living
- He shouted to get Jesus's attention
- He refused to be distracted by the crowd
- He did not assume Jesus should know what he needed he clearly answered Jesus's question
- He received his healing

In where we live, work, and play, let us be those who listen to:

1. People's heart. Everyone has a story, but few people want to listen to that story
2. Places. Let us not only listen to people around us, but also to listen to the heartbeat of the places around us. Listen for the Pain, Pennies, Power, and Parties of the places we live, work, and play; then allow God to lead you in the right way to respond to these needs
3. Across cultures. Effective listening unlocks cultural intelligence - the ability to walk effectively across cultures

Questions:

1. Why do we have such a challenging time truly listening to the people around us?
2. When was the last time you truly felt listened to, known, and loved? What was so special about this experience?
3. How can you listen and express care for that person with whom you regularly interact?
4. What practical steps will you take going forward in B.L.E.S.S.ing our neighbours?
5. Pray for one another to be better listeners in our different contexts