



Listen Up – Touchpoint for February 23, 2022

Luke 9:28-36 (NRSV) ²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Grace and peace from the Mystery in whom we live and move and have our being.

This is my Son, my chosen ... Listen to him.

*This is my Son, my chosen ... **Listen** to him.*

*This is my Son, my chosen ... **LISTEN** to him.*

OK, let's **talk** about this.

Seriously, what am I supposed to do with a passage which has as its primary message ‘listening?’

What do I do with a passage which, when I open my mouth and speak... I negate its very point?

Should I talk about listening? How we need to listen? Should I share some examples of listening?

Maybe I should give the following examples of active listening I found online:

Examples of Active Listening Techniques:

- Building trust and establishing rapport
- Demonstrating concern
- Paraphrasing to show understanding
- Nonverbal cues which show understanding such as nodding, eye contact, and leaning forward
- Brief verbal affirmations like “I see,” “I know,” “Sure,” “Thank you,” or “I understand”

You know which word isn't included in here?

LISTENING!!!

How about one of the techniques for listening be, “Shut up and listen.”

So, how should we talk about listening? We shouldn't.

Talking about something is not the same as doing it.

Look, it's like this...

In my much younger days, I was dating a woman. We had been going out for quite a while and I liked her. And then the relationship starting getting to that point where it was moving beyond 'like.' You know that point. The other "L" word starts to enter the picture.

Now, neither of us had said the word yet, but it was definitely in the back of my mind. And I wasn't sure how she felt... and who wants to go out on a limb and say it first?

But I decided to take the plunge. I planned a dinner at a nice restaurant ... and if all went well ... I would tell her how I felt.

We went out. It was a beautiful evening. Towards the end of the evening, I reached across the table and grabbed her hand. I looked her in the eye and said:

"I love ...

" ... talking about love and what it means. Its implication and practices. I love reading books and poetry about it and listening to songs about it. And I want to enter into an exclusive relationship with you where we can study love, think about love, and talk about love, together."

We never went out on another date. Apparently, she wanted something from a relationship other than studying what love means and talking about it.

I guess some people are just afraid of commitment.

OK, that didn't really happen, but you see the absurdity of it. Though some of you who know me wouldn't put this story past me.

It's like an old friend of mine once said, "If you want to avoid something, study it." Or if you're like Peter, build a monument to it ... or like us, build a religion ABOUT IT. Where we can study, think, and build doctrines and creeds about it. All so we don't have to listen.

So we are done studying this passage. We are done talking about it. We are done thinking about it.

WE ARE GOING TO DO IT!!!

We are going to listen to God's beloved Son.

I want you to get comfortable. Close your eyes. Clear your mind as much as possible. And I am going to read some sayings of Jesus to you.

And I am going to give a minute of silence between each of them. A minute of silence to listen again to the words of Jesus. A minute of silence to listen to the image of God in which you were created. A minute of silence to listen to the breath of God which gives you life -- that which you breathe in with every breath.

A minute of silence ... to listen.

To those of you who are reading this, I encourage you to find someone to read these quotes to you, allowing 60 seconds between each saying. Then, if they are willing, read them back to the other person.

- 1) You are the Light of the world.
- 2) The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The Kingdom of Heaven is in your midst. The Kingdom of Heaven is within you.
- 3) Blessed are the peacemakers.
- 4) Take heart. Your sins are forgiven.
- 5) I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was in prison and you visited me.
- 6) It is finished.

Amen.

Spirit in the Desert

Opening Songs

Be Still

(The London Fox Taize Choir, Remember Me)

Be Still, know that I am God

Creator Spirit, Come

(Keith Duke, Sacred Weave)

Creator Spirit, Come. Renew the face of the earth.

Kindling Spirit, Come. Enflame our waiting hearts.

Anointing Spirit, Come. Pour forth on us anew.

Bible Passage

(A passage takes us from one place to another)

Touchpoint

(Where God's story touches our life story)

Come O Lord and Set Us Free

(John L. Bell, The Wild Goose Collection)

Come, O Lord and set us free. Give/Bring your people peace.

Come, O Lord and set us free. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

1. And take our guilt away. Give us your pardon Lord.
2. Free from our self-obsession. Free from each fond possession.
3. Free to affirm each other...as sister and as brother

Reshape the world you made. Let what your hand created...be always celebrated.

The Meal

Lord's Prayer

(The Scottish Festival Singers)

Benediction

A Blessing

(Margaret Rizza, Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Complete Chants Vol.1)

May the Lord bless you.

May the Lord protect you and guide you.

May His strength uphold you.

His light shine upon you.

His peace surround you.

His love enfold you.

May the Lord bless you.