

The Best Listener
Psalm 55:1-5
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show who is the best listener and how we can be a better listener.

Intro: 1. What does it mean to listen?
2. Listen defined: *“to pay attention to someone or something in order to hear what is being said, sung, played, etc”* (Merriam-Webster.com)

I. What poor listeners do

- A. Unfairly judge without knowledge
 - 1. The “friends” of Job are a great example of this.
 - a. They had no real understanding of Job’s true situation.
 - 2. They made a judgment against him and continued to pronounce it against him over and over. (**Job 4:6-7**)
- B. Pretend to care (**Psalm 69:20**)
 - 1. False concern is not concern or love
 - 2. Internally mock

II. What good listeners do

- A. Listen and desire to understand
 - 1. Listening and understanding is a necessity to provide help in any form**
 - 2. When we understand needs and situations, to the best of our ability then help can be provided.**
- B. Genuine Concern
 - 1. Genuine concern prays for and listens to others**
 - 2. Genuine concern means love for the person.**
 - a. Lack of concern means lack of love.
 - b. Job’s friends had a lack of love, they condemned instead of exhorted (**Job 16:1-5**)
- C. God listens to us and knows us better than anyone. (**Psalm 17:6**)
 - 1. He never pretends to care.
 - 2. He never mocks us for needing Him.
 - a. God and the Son know more about temptation, sin and hardship than anyone on earth (**Hebrews 4:15-16**)

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. God & Good listeners are for you
 - 1. They want to be a help and not a stumbling block.
 - 2. Those for you want you to follow God’s Word through life and will use this as their standard for encouragement and advice.
 - 3. **Psalm 34:18-19**
- B. Response matters
 - 1. Those in need, need more than a listener, they themselves must act upon Godly words

of encouragement

- a. **Isa 12:1** – Godly comfort comes with change(repentance)
2. If you seek help, it's your duty to listen to God's Word and sound godly advice/encouragement.
 - a. **Psalm 30:5** – change is painful, but joy (the benefits from repentance) will follow. Many times in life painful changes bring the most reward.

C. Those who refuse to act cannot be helped.

1. Having the same problem because of the lack of desire to act is the fault of the person in need NOT God or those offering sound godly words.
2. Those who will not help themselves cannot be helped.
 - a. We can pray for them but we cannot forcibly help them.
 - b. Sometimes its even our own who will not change, **Psalm 55:19**

Application & Conclusion:

1. Who is the best listener?
 - a. God listens
 - b. God cares
 - c. God offers help
 - d. God is always there
2. We know to whom we should turn and we know He will provide the answers.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9