

ARE YOU A GOOD LISTNER?

At one time or another, we are all guilty of having “selective hearing.” Children approach their parents, eager to share an experience or seek advice. A husband comes home and tries to relate to his wife some difficulty he encounter at work that day. A friend calls another, looking for a sympathetic ear. In cases like this, and in far too many of life’s situations, it seems that we humans have this unfortunate ability to “tune out” those with whom we are speaking. We ‘HEAR’ them, but aren’t really “LISTENING.”

Our Lord said on numerous occasions: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matt 11:15). One could argue that what He really meant was “He who has ears to hear, let him LISTEN,” for Christ goes on to tell us: “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Mark 4:24) It is imperative then for a good Christian to be a GOOD LISTENER. To do so, our Savior gives us words of guidance: “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” (Matt 7:12) When we have problems & difficulties – when we have questions to ask or burdens to be lessened – don’t we expect the undivided attention of the person to whom we are speaking? Of course, we do! Others expect the same of us as well. A good listener must be patient, sincere & compassionate. It must be said as well that being a good listener also means knowing when to remain silent! Those who seek our ear do not always need our advice – they merely want our silent reassurance that all will be well. Countless lives have been saved from suicide & numerous scarred souls have been healed through the simple act of COMPASSIONATE LISTENING. Rest assured, hearing is not nearly enough!