

Listening to Jesus (Handout for talk by Neil Elliott.)

The Key to healthy relationships

“If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,
how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!
Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.” (Psalm 81:13–16 NIV)

The key to healthy relationships is _____

Why we struggle to listen?

Love & Obedience

1. We struggle to listen because _____

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30–31 NIV)

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. (1 John 3:16 NIV)

You can't do _____

And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16–17 NIV)

“If you love me, keep my commands.” (John 14:15 NIV)

2. We struggle to listen because _____

Why are we so terrified lest God should speak to us? Because we know that if God does speak, either the thing must be done or we must tell God we will not obey Him. If it is only the servant's voice we hear, we feel it is not imperative, [a command] we can say, 'Well, that is simply your own idea, though I don't deny it is probably God's truth.'

(Oswald Chambers. My utmost for his highest. Feb 12th)

The Father heart of God.

The motivation of sacrificial love.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

The Father was motivated by sacrificial love _____

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42 NIV)

Jesus was motivated by sacrificial love _____

When our motivation is sacrificial love, we teach our children to listen:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Returning to our Father

Mothering Sunday:

Centuries ago it was considered important for people to **return** to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area.

Inevitably the **return** to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away **returned** home.

(www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/motheringsunday_1.shtml accessed 10/03/2018)