

RECAP

As you reflect on last week's sermon discussion, what did Holy Spirit reveal to you as you meditated on Isaiah 58?

Who is God bringing to mind as you discern what it looks like to engage and serve the least of these? What still needs to be discerned?

IDEA 1

Brain started his sermon by sharing how we many of us can hear but not really listen to the airplane safety speech.

He went on to say - "We can respond the same way when it comes to listening to God and His Word. We are distracted, bored, it isn't relevant to us, we just want everything to be ok, we've heard it all before, "tell me something I don't know" - and so we don't listen."

He also shared this insightful quote from GK Chesterton - "There is a lot of difference between hearing and listening."

How would you explain the difference between hearing and listening?

What things can keep you from listening? (distractions, boredom, relevancy, fear, repetition, etc)

Why do you think a listening posture is essential for kingdom advance?

IDEA 2

Read Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

In this parable, Jesus highlights 4 soils/heart postures.

1. Hard (e.g. cynicism)
2. Shallow/rocky (e.g. abandon God when experience suffering)
3. Thorny/choked (e.g. too busy for spiritual things)
4. Good (e.g. produces Kingdom fruit)

IDEA 2 CONT.

What soil/heart posture can you most relate to in this season? Why?
How do we cultivate our lives so the soil is good? How do we listen well?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Come before the Divine Gardener together.

Start by praying that God would remove any of the things that keep us from listening.

Next, ask Him to break up the hard ground, uproot the rocks, remove the thorns that have made their way in the soil of our lives.

Read and listen to these words from Ezekiel 36:26-27:

"I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."

After reading it, pause and listen. **What does God have to say to you in this moment?**

Pay attention and, as you feel led, share with the group what you hear God saying.

APPLICATION

Discuss as a group what it could look like for you to take a posture of listening as you pray this week.

Some examples of what this could look like:

- Pay attention to all the different ways that God communicates with us (e.g. nature, emotions, senses, dreams, doing justice, people, places, etc)
- Ask God questions - God, what do You see, what do You think, what do You want?
- As you spend time in God's Word, don't just read but take time to listen to what God might be saying to you through it