

Solving Word Problems — Part 1: Gotta Listen

Sunday, February 9, 2020

We all know what it's like to be hurt by someone who just couldn't listen long enough to understand us. Maybe in their attempt to be right, they damaged a relationship that could have been saved with a little patience and curiosity. You've probably been on the other side of that coin too. Taking the verbal offense may have won the argument but you lost relationally. What if we didn't settle for being right, but tried to make things right instead? The longer we listen the more we learn, and the better chance we have of protecting ourselves from creating our own word problems.

Read James 1:19-22

- When is a time you have encountered a problem because of words spoken to you or you've spoken to others?
- Do you think many of the word problems we experience could be avoided altogether? Why or why not?
- Do you agree that most people simply want to be heard and understood? Why or why not?
- Why do we tend to listen more when we think we are being heard and understood?
- What do you think it means to make listening the first priority in communication? How can listening as the first priority change relationship dynamics positively?
- What are some ways you can be slow to speak? What are some benefits to pushing pause and choosing our words wisely?
- In what ways does asking questions lead to learning more about what another person is saying?
- How might being quick to listen and slow to speak lead to us being less angry?
- Do you agree that anger is good for identifying problems but not solving them? Why or why not?
- What are some expressions of human anger that you would conclude to be unhealthy?
- What type of "right" does God desire between people – "at" each other or "with" each other? Explain.
- What is one step you can take to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry?