

Stopping Long Enough to Hear

Scripture: Luke 18:40–41

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. Crowds were pressing in. History was unfolding. And yet... Jesus stopped.

The miracle in Jericho didn't begin with sight—it began with listening. Before Jesus healed the blind man, He honored him with a question. A moment of attention. An invitation to speak.

Listening wasn't a delay to the mission. Listening was the mission.

As followers of Jesus—and as neighborhood missionaries—we learn to bless others the same way He did: by slowing down enough to hear their story. One simple, powerful way to do that is by listening with the 4 H's.

1. Listen for Their History

Everyone comes from somewhere. Long before we meet people where they are, God has been at work shaping who they are.

- Where did you grow up?
- Tell me about your family.

- Who has had the biggest impact on your life?
- What experience shaped you the most?

When you listen for someone's history, you're saying: "Your story matters. You didn't just appear in this moment."

Jesus didn't treat people like interruptions—He treated them like individuals with a past worth honoring.

2. Listen for Their Heart

Beneath facts and routines are desires, loves, and values.

- What's most important to you right now?
- What do you enjoy the most?
- What brings you real joy?

Listening for the heart helps us see what truly moves someone. It builds connection, not arguments. Understanding, not assumptions.

People are far more open when they feel known.

3. Listen for Their Habits

Daily rhythms reveal what life is really like.

- What are you into these days?
- What do you like to do in your free time?

- What's one thing you do every day without fail?

Habits give us a window into pressures, passions, and priorities. They help us meet people in the ordinary moments—the very places where Jesus so often worked.

4. Listen for Their Hurts

Every person carries something heavy, even if it's hidden well.

- How are you really doing with that situation?
- Is there anything you're carrying that feels heavy right now?
- How can I pray for you? — and then do it.

This kind of listening is sacred ground. It reflects the heart of Christ, who stopped, drew near, and listened before He acted.

Often, being heard is the first step toward healing.

A Simple Practice This Week

Ask God to place one person on your heart. Slow down. Ask one good question. Listen without rushing to fix or respond.

- You don't have to have all the answers.
- You don't have to say much at all.
- Love often sounds like silence and attention.

Jesus stopped. Jesus asked. Jesus listened. And in that ordinary moment, a life was changed.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see interruptions as opportunities. Give me ears to hear, a heart to care, and the humility to listen like Jesus. Amen.