God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Care Enough to Listen

Speaker: Shane Condon

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Mark 10:51 (ESV)**

  "What do you want me to do for you?"

  Jesus stopped for Bartimaeus and invited him to express his need. In this account, Jesus restores his sight, and Bartimaeus follows him. Shane draws a practical lesson from Jesus' attentive care: give people room to speak before assuming what they need. Our listening cannot promise a particular outcome, but it can make room for compassionate help.

- **Ephesians 4:15 (ESV)**

  "speaking the truth in love"

  Paul describes believers growing together into maturity under Christ. Truth and love belong together in that growth. Shane applies this to friendship: listen, show grace, and offer honest counsel when it is needed. Understanding someone helps us speak with care instead of trying to make them fit our preferences.

Discussion Questions

- When someone shares a struggle, what makes you want to offer a solution before hearing the whole story? How might that affect the person speaking?
- What stands out to you about Jesus stopping and asking Bartimaeus what he wanted? How could that shape your next conversation with someone seeking help?
- Shane names advice, prayer, practical help, and a listening friend as different needs. How can you discover which kind of support a person is asking for?
- How can a friendship make room for both patient listening and truth spoken in love? What helps honest advice feel caring rather than controlling?
- Think of someone in a difficult season. What would walking alongside that person look like without rushing them to feel better?

Reflection Challenge

In one conversation this week, practice listening long enough to understand the person's need before choosing your response. Give that person your attention, ask how you can help, and follow through on one realistic act of care.

Ask yourself:

- Am I listening to understand, or preparing what I will say next?
- What am I assuming about this person's struggle or needs?
- Can I be patient when I do not have an answer or a quick solution?

Try this:

- Put away distractions and let the person finish. Allow a quiet pause before you respond.
- Briefly reflect back what you heard and ask whether you understood correctly.
- Ask, "How can I help?" Explore whether prayer, advice, practical support, or simply company would be welcome.
- Choose a manageable next step together, then check in again. Let your care continue beyond the first conversation.

Remember

- Good intentions still need patient listening.
- People facing similar problems may need different kinds of help.
- A person's appearance does not tell you their whole story.
- Truth and love belong together in Christian friendship.
- You can offer care without having the perfect answer.
- Care enough to listen, and let what you hear shape how you help.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your patient care. Forgive me for rushing to give answers before I understand the person in front of me. Help me notice the assumptions I make and give others room to speak. Teach me to listen with compassion, speak truth with love, and offer the help that is actually needed. When a struggle cannot be quickly resolved, give me patience to remain a faithful friend. Let my attention and actions reflect the care of Jesus.

In Jesus' name, Amen.