

January 6, 2008

Part 1 of the "4L's of a Well Lived Life" -

Part 1 - Listening or "There's a reason God gave you 2 ears and only one mouth!"

Nehemiah 1

8"Listen and Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' 10" They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

To listen is to be \_\_\_\_\_. Nehemiah's life was changed by listening. Nehemiah could look back at the end of this adventure and see that it all happened because he listened. He listened as his brother talked of the beloved city of Jerusalem and listened as God called him to do something that was beyond his abilities to do.

Listening is not a \_\_\_\_\_. We cannot want others to listen if we are not willing to do it. To listen we must do 3 things.

- S - \_\_\_\_\_
S - \_\_\_\_\_
S - \_\_\_\_\_

Part of living a well lived life \_\_\_\_\_. Just stop. To be willing to let the world go on spinning while you stop running around in circles and just breathe. \_\_\_\_\_.

There are situations that deeply hurt and affect you if you will only stop and stare. But we don't really want to do that. \_\_\_\_\_.

We like to give out advice like cheap candy, we like to pontificate about a myriad of subjects and show people just how smart we think we are. \_\_\_\_\_.

(Blanks are filled in on reverse side ->)

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8"Listen and Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' 10" They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand.

To listen is to be **changed**. Nehemiah's life was changed by listening. Nehemiah could look back at the end of this adventure and see that it all happened because he listened. He listened as his brother talked of the beloved city of Jerusalem and listened as God called him to do something that was beyond his abilities to do.

Listening is not a **spectator sport**. We cannot want others to listen if we are not willing to do it. To listen we must do 3 things.

- S - **Stop**
S - **Stare**
S - **Shhhh**

Part of living a well lived life **is the ability to stop**. Just stop. To be willing to let the world go on spinning while you stop running around in circles and just breathe. **You can't listen until you stop**.

There are situations that deeply hurt and affect you if you will only stop and stare. But we don't really want to do that. **We don't really want to be too affected, too moved, too ashamed. You can't listen unless you stare.**

We like to give out advice like cheap candy, we like to pontificate about a myriad of subjects and show people just how smart we think we are. **But if we are going to really listen, we got to stop talking.**