

Listen UP: Ears that Hear
James 1:19, 1 Kings 3:1-6 and Matthew 7:3-5

L. Look inside for your dirty filter.

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,
James 1:19

Nobody has to remind us to listen to what we want to hear

Are You Quick to Listen?

What are you intending to do that you don't intend to share because
you don't want to hear?

**I have a bad idea to decide not to share it...
because I don't want to hear it...
because I really want to do it...
and it leads to regret... and is selfish...
because it hurts the people who care about me

— Refusing to ask is an indicator of ignorance.
— Refusing to listen in a gateway decision.

**When we do not ask or do not listen,
we are masterminding our own regret.

Instructions for Israel's King

Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the Lord, and the wall around Jerusalem. 2 The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the Lord. 3 Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. 1 Kings 3:1-4

16 The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, "You are not to

*go back that way again.” 17 He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray.
He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Deuteronomy 17:16-17*

*8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I
acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart.
9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom
stayed with me.*

*10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.
11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.
Ecclesiastes 2:8-11*

*1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—
Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations
about which the Lord had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them,
because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held
fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred
concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his
heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God...
1 Kings 11:1-4*

*Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.
Proverbs 19:20*

— Counted among the wise means appear smarter than you really are

Music

Sermon Part 2

Listen UP: Ears that Hear
James 1:19, 1 Kings 3:1-6 and Matthew 7:3-5

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry....
James 1:19b

3 *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Matthew 7:3-5*

The Goal: Self Awareness and Selfless Accountability.

And Learn to listen well...

In the Psalms, King David wrote...

12 *But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.*
13 *Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.*
14 *May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*
Psalm 19:12-14

- David was asking God to reveal his 'dirty filter'.
 - He suspected that he had issues in his life that kept him from being right with God (and right with others),
 - but he didn't know exactly what they were.
 - So he asked.... the ones he knew about, he confessed.
-

Refusing to ask is an indicator of ignorance.
Refusing to listen is a gateway decision.

****When we do not ask or do not listen, we are masterminding our own regret.**

*Listen to advice and accept discipline,
and at the end you will be counted among the wise.*

Proverbs 19:20

(Counted among the wise means appear smarter than you really are.)