

If you were in the service Sunday, how did you feel when Dan asked us to sit quietly and just listen? Did you hear God whispering? Did you listen to what He was saying? If you're like me, you were distracted by all the sights and sounds in the room. I tried to listen, but then I was distracted by something that caught my eye. I tried to hear, but my thoughts wandered. Over the next few days, I tried listening again, but each time I lost my train of thought. On the way to work this morning, I decided to try it again. I didn't have my kids. I was on a few country roads. And I turned off the radio. At first, my mind went blank. Then I passed a beautiful pond surrounded by a variety of trees. And I began to thank God for my creative surroundings. But my goal was to listen – not to talk. So I just focused on noticing things that were God-given . . . the blue jay, the design of the pine, the warmth of the sun. That's when I felt God say, "Thanks for noticing."

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39) Can I love God so deeply that I stop giving Him my leftovers?

Dan explained that Jesus wanted quality over quantity. Jesus was more concerned with the quality of His followers, than the quantity of His followers. Jesus moves away from popularity and toward poverty. What am I moving toward?

Have I tried to spend time in solitude with God? If not, what's getting in the way? Do I hear Him? What's He saying?

Dan said, "We have lost the art of listening." Name some reasons why. Who or what is competing for my ear? Do I know what God's voice sounds like?

Dan suggested that our culture likes really high highs. Do I agree? How does this "high" affect our spiritual maturity? (Think of the graph Dan drew on the dry erase board.)

What is one way I can add solitude into my life this week?

Additional Verses: Mark 1:21-39

Radical Reminder:

I will pray for the entire world.

I will read through the entire Word.

I will sacrifice my money for a specific purpose.