

LOVE OUT LOUD

Day Eight – Loving Through Listening

Scripture: *“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”* – James 1:19

Love doesn't always need a grand gesture. Sometimes, love looks like closing your mouth, opening your ears, and leaning into another person's story. Listening is a forgotten art in our noisy world, where everyone wants to talk but few truly want to hear. I guarantee you know someone you can't have a two way conversation because they never shut up. It's always all about them and they could care less where you are in your world. They want to be heard. Fact of the matter the longer they talk probaly the more you tune them out.

When we love out loud, we practice the kind of listening Jesus modeled. Think about how many times He paused to hear the heart behind people's questions—the woman at the well, the blind man calling out, the grieving sisters of Lazarus. His listening wasn't passive; it was active, attentive, and compassionate.

We often underestimate how healing it can be for someone simply to feel heard. A listening ear says, *“You matter. Your story matters. I care enough to give you my attention.”* And when we offer that kind of presence, we're pouring out love in a way words alone can't accomplish.

Maybe it's your child who rambles about their day, your spouse who quietly carries stress, or a friend who has been through a storm. By

giving them your full attention, you're not just hearing them—you're loving them. Even when we don't have the answers, our willingness to listen can be the bridge God uses to bring comfort and peace.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to love through listening. Quiet my tongue, slow my thoughts, and open my heart so I can hear others the way You hear me. In Jesus Name We Pray, Amen.

Action Step:

Today, choose one person in your life and give them the gift of your full attention. Put away distractions, look them in the eye, and listen—not to respond, but to understand.