

Transfiguration Sunday February 18, 2007

Why don't you listen
by Rev. Arthur W. Sharot Jr.

Why don't you listen?

Is there no one to hear?

The songs that I sing
My poetry dear.

Why don't your listen?

Is there no one to hear?

The warnings I give
In times of great fear.

Why don't you listen?

I've good things to say
Haven't I listened
Since you've learned to pray.

Why don't you listen?

Have I nothing to say?

Please give me your ear
Before the last day
Why don't you listen?

I'll sing you my song
Of life giving sacrifice
Your life prolonged
Why don't you listen?

I've words just for you
purpose and meaning
Of life all for you.

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ
his son our lord, Amen.

Listening

Who Is Listening

During the first year of marriage, the husband speaks and the wife hears.

During the second year, the wife speaks and the husband hears.

During the third year both of them speak, but only the neighbors hear.

Today in the gospel of Luke we have the familiar story of the
Disciples' mountain top experience.

I bet we all remember that Jesus was transformed on that
mountain top, that he becomes dazzling white. Not only Jesus
but his clothes as well. You might even remember that Jesus

was talking to Moses and Elijah. But I wonder if you remember the command given in this story. It is one of the two commands we receive in the New Testament. Do you remember the other one? The love one? Love one another as I have loved you. What is the command we get today up on the mountain?

Jesus is transformed. He is talking to Moses and Elijah. They are

getting ready to leave when Peter says, **to Jesus**, *“Master, it is*

*good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”*³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, *“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”*

The command given to Peter, James and John is [pause] Listen!

Listen to him! Jesus here is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!

We are commanded to listen to Jesus so lets do that right now.

(sit down for a minute)

We only took a minute to listen. To try to listen. How many of you found it difficult to listen to Jesus?

It is a simple thing but a very difficult thing. The old Testament gives 10 commandments. The New testament gives us two. I don't think the 2 from the NT are any easier than the 10.

Perhaps they are even harder.

The Lord's prayer.

Today our 2nd graders have their Faith Step which is, The Lord's prayer. It's a good prayer. It's the Lord prayer, Jesus' prayer, the Prayer that Jesus told his disciples to use. The disciples said to Jesus, John taught his disciples to pray, teach us to pray. Jesus said, When you pray pray like this and he taught them the Lord's prayer, actually his prayer, so I think it's safe to say it is a good prayer.

One pet peeve I have, well, besides that fact that the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. It wasn't a dove. Besides that pet peeve another pet peeve is when people say, "let's say the Lord's prayer. I don't like that because it's not suppose to be

something that we just say. The Lord's prayer, is a prayer. It is not to be said or read it is to be prayed.

So we pray the Lord 's Prayer. It's a good prayer, we have established that it is a good prayer. But did you hear what happened here? Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. That's just like when we ask Jesus to help us with some situation in our life in prayer. Do you realize what the disciples had to do to learn that prayer? They had to listen to him. If they didn't listen to him they wouldn't know the prayer. We are commanded to listen to Jesus. That doesn't mean we are not to bring anything to Jesus in prayer. Of course we are to. Jesus wants us to bring all of our joys and concerns to him, the big things and the small things. But. And there is a big but here. Pardon the pun. But we are also to listen to him.

How can we hear the answers to our prayers if we don't listen?

Not only that God might want to communicate to us about things we aren't even thinking about at the time.

As we head into lent what can we do to practice listening to Jesus?

One way: find a quiet place where no one will disturb you. Sit in a comfortable position, close your eyes and just listen. If you are afraid that something will come into your head that you don't want to forget, have a piece of paper with you so you can write it down and think about it later.

Quite often if you get comfortable and close your eyes you will think of something or remember something you have been trying to remember. That's because your life is too busy. It means you need to practice this type of prayer more often. To clean out your system so that you can be more open to listen to God.

Another thing you can do is read some scripture and then listen to what you think God might be saying to you through those bible verses.

There are many other things you can do but one last thing is to pray the Lord's prayer all at once or one part at a time pausing to hear what God wants to say to you through that prayer.

If God wants to get a message to you he will find a way even if we don't listen. But we don't want to be fighting against God we want to work with him. I think this story about the patient goes to a doctor is a good warning to us:

Patient: I am having a hard time hearing. I cannot even hear myself cough.

Doctor: Here is a prescription, take the medicine for 7 days, then return for a checkup.

Seven Days Later: Patient: Thanks a million, doctor. At least, I can hear myself cough now. So what did you do to make me hear better?

Doctor: Not much, I gave you medicine that increased your cough.

I think I told you once before that my uncle told me the most important thing to have in a car is a good loud radio, so that if something goes wrong you can just turn up the radio and it won't bother you.

That's just kind of a joke because if we turn the radio up we won't get the message the car is trying to give us. In the same way we don't want to hinder the message or messages Jesus is trying to give us.

In closing I would like to sing a song for you from Jesus but I need you to help me. When I point to you, I need you to sing,

"ooo, wa, ooo". Let's practice.

I'll start. Listen "ooo, wa, ooo"

Do you want to know a secret?

"ooo, wa, ooo"

Do you promise not to tell? O, O closer. "ooo, wa, ooo"

Let me whisper in your ear. "ooo, wa, ooo"

Here the words you long to hear.

God says, "I'm in love with you."

Let us listen

Let us listen as God whispers in our ear.

Saying the words we long to hear.

But we don't have to promise not to tell.

Thanks be to God, Amen.