

CHOOSING TO LISTEN RATHER THAN FIX

LUKE 24 – ERIC SIMPSON – SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Last week:

TOGETHER means...

- > We make a choice to walk with others in liminal space.
- > We're focused on being with Jesus while we're with each other.

Luke 24:17-19

¹⁷ He [Jesus] asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

TOGETHER means...

- > We resist the temptation to rush in and fill the emptiness with words.
- > We learn the art of prayerful listening.

Romans 8:26

...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

- > What was that like for you?
- > How did you experience God (or not) in the midst of that?
- > What are some themes that have been coming up as you pray about this?
- > What questions does that raise for you?

"We are listening for what God's desire or guidance for that person might be, not what our best advice might be or how we can be most helpful. Furthermore, we are willing to be made aware of what is going on within ourselves so that our own inner urges (to fix, problem solve, alleviate discomfort) don't get in the way of what God wants to do in the moment."

– Ruth Haley Barton

"I look at God, I look at you, and I keep looking at God." – Julian of Norwich

Putting it into practice...

- > Silence – 2 minutes (take a few deep breaths & settle into the quiet)
- > Read thru John 10:14-18 twice (slowly, reflectively)
- > Reflect on...
 - Do I have the kinds of relationships in my life that help me seek God?
 - If not, what's holding me back from pursuing those?
 - Am I looking for human relationships to be for me what only Christ can be?
 - Where do I hear the voice of the Good Shepherd speaking to me?
- > Pray (spend some time talking with God about whatever surfaces in this)
- > Silence – 2 minutes (be with what is)