

Handouts for Real Question 7

Who listens to you when you need to be listened to?



Real Question 7, Part 4: God Speaks Scripture Handout

Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24, verses 13-35

That very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side, but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days." "What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth," they answered, "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us; they went to the tomb and found every thing exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing."

Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the Scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said, "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

Sharing the Blessing Questions from RQ7

- What is going on here? What does it say about Jesus? What is Jesus listening to? How is he listening? What is he looking out for? What does it say about the disciples, and how they felt?
- How did you feel when being listened to?
- Looking back, what are the blessings that stay with you from this experience of being listened to?
- What might God be saying to you about your life, and the whole mystery of God being with us in different ways in our experiences of being listened to, sometimes in surprising ways?
- What would you say was your word of blessing or encouragement through being listened to? “I feel blessed because...”

Real Question 7, Closing Prayer Handout

After the Leader's Introduction, we listen to five 'wise guides' speaking about the gift of listening and being listened to:

Voice 1:

The beginning of love for others is learning to listen to them

Deitrich Bonhoeffer

Voice 2:

Listening is the highest form of hospitality... not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.

Henri Nouwen

Voice 3:

Listen not only to what the person is saying but to who she or he is.

Taize, Rule

Voice 4:

Listening is a gift that requires constant practice – the most healing gift anyone can possess... it allows the other to be themselves, in a safe space, does not judge or advise them, accepts them as they are without wanting to change them, and communicates support at a level deeper than words.

Gerard Hughes, Walk to Jerusalem

Voice 5:

In our world .. we can make present the fragrance of Christ's closeness and his personal gaze. The Church will have to initiate everyone into this 'art of accompaniment' which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (Ex 3:5). The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life.

Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel #169

Final Prayer together

Loving Jesus, you write on our hearts
not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God,
and you have sown so much good in others,
in the hope that we will help make this goodness grow.
With your grace, may we contemplate all those we meet with your eyes,
appreciating their dignity, and being fully present to them,
as you were to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
No-one felt overlooked in your presence,
since you conveyed in your listening, your gestures,
your words and your silence,
the immense love of the Trinity.
Stir in us that same tenderness,
as we reach out to others, to listen, to guide and to encourage.
May we be that nearest 'field hospital' joining with you
in the building of a world where no-one will feel alone.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Inspired by Amoris Laetitia, (The Joy of Love) # 321, 322 and 323

The Counting our Blessings Prayer

Let our friendships be strong, O Lord, that they become a blessing to others.

Let our friendships be open O Lord, that they may be a haven for others.

Let our friendships be gentle O Lord, that they may bring peace to others, In Jesus name.

AMEN

Peace be with you!

TEMPLATE

Provide enough strips of paper/card and pens/colours in the basket on the prayer focus for each person to write down the people who have listened to them over the years during the Closing Prayer.

People who have listened to me over the years....



People who have listened to me over the years....



People who have listened to me over the years....

