

Trying to Listen Louder

A man realized he needed to purchase a hearing aid, but he felt unwilling to spend much money.

“How much do they run?” he asked the clerk.

“That depends,” said the salesman. “They run from three dollars to three thousand dollars.”

“Let’s see the three dollar model,” the man said.

The clerk put the device around the man’s neck. “You just stick this button in your ear and run this little string down to your pocket,” he instructed.

“How does it work?” the customer asked.

“For three dollars – it doesn’t work,” the salesman replied. “But when people see it on you, they’ll talk louder.”

Well, that’s one way of accomplishing the goal!

Another man, talking to his neighbor, said, “I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me 800 dollars, but it’s state-of-the-art. It’s perfect.”

“Really!” his neighbor exclaimed. “What kind is it?”

“12:30.”

As you know, most communication problems are not due to people with hearing problems. It’s that we more often have listening problems.

My wife has her own take on this subject. She says I have *selective hearing*. She might be right.

Psychologist Carl Rogers said, “A person’s real need, a most terrible need, is for someone to listen ... not as a ‘patient,’ but as a human soul.”

And Steve Goodier, an ordained United Methodist minister and author of numerous books about personal development, motivation and inspiration, observed: “To listen well is to respond to a great human yearning. Maybe that’s one of the reasons folks will pay hundreds of dollars an hour for no other reason than to have someone listen to them. When someone truly listens, it is rare and beautiful.”



(more)

A small child, admonished by his mother for not paying attention, put it this way: "I'll try to listen louder."

Perhaps you and I can "listen louder" today.

Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding (Proverbs 2:2 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter