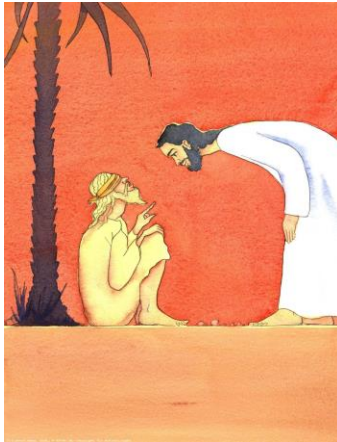


LISTENING



And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him,

"What do you want me to do for you?"
He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight."

Luke 18

Jesus was never too busy to stop and listen.

Maybe it was two brothers fighting over an inheritance.

Or a man with a dying daughter.

Or a woman touching his garment as her last hope.

Always he stopped and paid attention.

He listened.

Who knows how many thousands of forgotten ones are falling through our "Christian cracks" simply because no one has time to listen.

We want Jesus to listen to us, as we cry to him for help.

We want him to pay attention to our cries.

So why are we too busy to answer that phone?

Why does it take us a year to answer that letter?

You're sitting at the lunch counter minding your own business. A broken soul sits down beside you and starts to unburden their heart to you, a perfect stranger.

Are you going to listen?

Or are you going to brush them off?

Many a wandering soul stumbles into our lives looking for a listening ear.



What if God sent that soul to us, and we calmly shut the door?

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength....

.....and your neighbor as yourself.”

Maybe we can't afford to buy them lunch.

Maybe we feel drained of advice.

But we can at least listen.

***Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.***

Hebrews 13



Prayer: Lord help us stop and listen, really listen to those who need a listening ear. Forgive us for neglecting to be attentive to the hurting souls you bring to us. As we listen, Lord, ignite our hearts with the love and tender compassion that the wounded truly seek. May listening not only bring them the healing they need, may it bring us closer to your merciful presence as well.

Maranatha Mirror

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN