

Listen Well (John 4:4-26)

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The book of Proverbs offers believers wisdom for the journey of life. One area where Proverbs speaks candidly involves communication. Proverbs 18:13 says, “The one who gives an answer before he listens—this is foolishness and disgrace for him,” and in verse 17 it reads, “The first to state his case seems right until another comes and cross-examines him.” What do these Proverbs teach us?

The answer is simple, “*Wise people don’t yell. They listen well.*”

In John 4, Jesus models how to love God and love people well. He keeps His gaze vertical before looking horizontal. Let’s examine this text to discover how.

Big idea: Your vertical vision can produce horizontal healing.

1) Jesus listens well to the Father’s leading (vv. 4-6)

- a. He traveled through Samaria for the benefit of both parties (v. 4)
 - i. *Triple avoidance*—race (Samaritan), class (lower socioeconomic/prostitute), gender (female).
 - ii. These intersecting realities marginalized her identity in the public square. Jesus does not allow cultural fear to determine His conversation partners.
- b. He knew the sin of partiality creates cultural disunity (v. 5)
- c. He did not allow fatigue to cause faithlessness (v. 6)

2) Jesus cares well for the Samaritan woman’s holistic needs (vv. 17-22). When you see a need, meet the need.

- a. He cares for her emotional needs (vv. 7-12)
- b. He cares for her spiritual needs (vv. 13-14)
- c. He cares for her physical needs (vv. 15-18)
- d. He cares for her intellectual needs (vv. 19-22)

3) Jesus compels the Samaritan woman to embrace truth (vv. 23-26)

- a. He creates a better vision for tomorrow and today (v. 23)
- b. He champions what the Father desires (v. 24)
- c. He clarifies the woman’s confusion with biblical truth (vv. 25-26)

Point to ponder: The most loving act a Christian can do for a person in a crisis is to listen and respond to their immediate and eternal needs. The Holy Spirit will give you the ability find common ground so you can plant gospel seeds, but you must listen well.