**Jesus the Listener**

**Talk 1: Jesus knows what it is to be listened to..**

**Introduction**

Seldom do we preach or teach about Jesus’ listening skills.

His power to heal/ his passion/ his parables/his love…yes

Listening was one of the formative exhortations from God in the OT.

The complexity of the Hebrew word ‘shama.’ We translate it as ‘hear!’

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in Covenant and Conversations defines this word as being:

To hear intelligently…often with the implication of attention or obedience; often resulting in telling.

Eg. “Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your strength.”(Deut 6v4+5)

**NB** Hear is mentioned 92 times in the Book of Deuteronomy, more than any other OT book.

Shama also means: Consider /Diligently discern

**NB2** Sacks makes a case for Hebrew culture that knowing comes from listening rather than seeing. When we understand something we say “I see.” Listening however, implies community and relationship ie. My sheep hear my voice; I call them by name; Elijah comes out of his self-imposed isolation by the whisper of a voice rather than the power of God.

***Crowds are moved by great speakers but lives are changed by great listeners.*** (Sacks)

**Prayer and the quest for God to hear us:**

Give ear to my words O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help(Psalm 5v1+2)

You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted, and you listen to their cry. (Psalm 10v17)

**Listening and spiritual growth:**

Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm. (Proverbs 1v33)

Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. (Proverbs 8v34)

**Listening to the voice of prophecy:**

Hear O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the Lord has spoken. (Isaiah 1v2)

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, all you clans of the house of Israel. (Jeremiah 1v4)

**Listening in the experience of Jesus.**

**The Baptism of Jesus.** Luke 3v21-23a

Did Jesus have needs? If so, what were they?

Affirmation and identity.

Example of Chaplaincy time at Kos

**The raising of Lazarus.** John 11v38-44

Bestowing courage and confidence.

The taking of risks.

**Talk 2: Jesus and his ministry of Listening**

**Introduction**

Listening has so changed my conception of my ministry. Where formally I had concluded that when I speak or preach, my congregation will hear Jesus in my talk, now I know that when I listen my people hear Jesus speaking. You would think it would be the other way around. (Father Ciaran, Belfast)

**Examples of Listening in the Ministry of Jesus**

His approach to healing

His approach to welcome and restoring

His approach to vision

**His approach to healing**

Consider the different people he healed of blindness:

Bartimaeus: Mark 10v46-52

The Man born blind: John Chapter 9

The blind man at Bethsaida: Mark 8v22-26

Why the different routines? Because they are different people.

**His approach to welcome and restoring**

The well-known woman: Luke 7v36-50

Compare the different reactions of Jesus and Simon.

**His approach to vision**

The Mount of Transfiguration: Mark 9v2-7