

SEEK THE LORD

“The Brick or the Whisper?”

The driver of a new Jaguar was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jaguar’s side door! He slammed on the brakes and drove the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, “What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That is a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money! Why did you do it?”

The young boy was apologetic. “Please mister ... please, I’m sorry ... I didn’t know what to do,” he pleaded. “I threw the brick because no one else would stop ... “with tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. “It’s my brother,” he said. “He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheel chair and I can’t lift him up.” Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, “Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He is hurt and he’s too heavy for me.”

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into his wheelchair, then took out his fancy handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. “Thank you and may God bless you,” the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage on the side of the car was very

noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented door. He kept the dent to remind him of this message: Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!

The Bible tells us God often speaks with a still small voice. We can hear God whispering in our hearts if we are listening. Sometimes when we are not listening, God has to throw a brick at us. It is our choice: Listen for the whisper ... or wait for the BRICK! Most of us are not naturally good at being a listener. The good news is that listening is a learned art. We can become better at listening if we work at it. Unfortunately, the skill of listening is practiced so rarely that we don't hear what we are saying let alone our family members. The best way to honor and family member is to listen to them!

There is an old saying that goes, "God gave us two ears and one mouth. That ought to tell us something." Would your family members say that you are as good with your ears as you are with your mouth? - Now that is a really good question. I'm not sure I want to hear the answer my kids or wife would give.

One of the biggest obstacles to good listening is the bad habit of talking too much. The Bible reminds us, "When words are many, sin is not absent but the one that holds their tongue is wise." (Proverbs 10:19) A good prayer for this problem is found in Psalm 141, "Set a guard over my mouth O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips." A healthy person and a healthy family needs to take time to listen to God and others. It is our choice, Listen for the whisper or wait for the brick!

Prayer: Our Lord, may we be part of those wise folks who listen with our ears and carefully watch our words. Amen.

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