



Week 1, Day 4:

You are the light of the world--like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:14

People are interesting. If we will listen, we will discover this. They are image bearers of God. They are broken, marred, and not fully together, just like us—but they are image bearers nonetheless. It's amazing, when you take the time to listen, how much you can learn. You begin to see how amazingly unique and creative each one of God's image bearers is.

Sometimes you will hear people refer to energy—"I really like the energy I feel there" or "That person has some great energy"—and light—"Did you ever notice how some people seem to have more light than others?"

You will also come to understand what they value, things like: faithfulness in relationships; tangible, hands-on expressions of kindness through serving; and their children's futures. By listening, we show others we care. We learn better how others communicate and what certain concepts mean to them.

And if you listen long enough you may also get to know their story. Quiet your soul and listen to God. And close your mouth once in a while and listen to others. Do both together, and you will find yourself joining in with the activity of the Spirit working through you. If you will listen, people will find themselves meeting with God when they are with you, even though they are not fully aware of it.

Are you familiar with God's presence in your life? Do you recognize his voice? Do you set aside regular time to listen to God through his Word, by his Spirit? Open the Bible and take time to invite him to speak to you through it, and then write down what he says to you. Do you listen to God on others' behalf? What is he saying about them to you? Do you listen to others when you are with them? What are they saying and

what is the Spirit saying? Listen. He is speaking, and so are they. Open your ears as an act of love.

REFLECT:

What can you do today to apply what you have read?