



WISDOMFEST 2025

“Being of similar age, we both came from an era where our parents had lived through two world wars, when young men wanted to be like their fathers – wear the same clothes, do the same things.

“But then there was a huge change and our generation wanted to be anything but their fathers.

“It wasn’t our parents’ fault, there was just a big social change. Pop music had come along, The Beatles, denim trousers . . . for the first time, teens had their own culture.

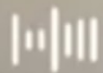
“That’s how our generation couldn’t really talk to our parents in the same way...

“So we had the idea of writing a song about how you never really talk to your father, and you miss out on these things.”

Mike Rutherford

MIKE + THE MECHANICS

THE LIVING YEARS



LYRIC VIDEO

RUDIMENTARY STARK



Why do we have trouble listening?

Sin distorts our ability to listen . . .

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causing us to speak **too soon**.

causing us to **minimize suffering** and give
simplistic answers to complex questions.

causing us to be **prideful**.

“The eyes of the LORD are toward the
righteous and his ears toward their cry.

“The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

“When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

Psalms 34:15-17

A Prerequisite of Listening: **Humility**

“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,
but only in expressing his opinion.”

Proverbs 18:2

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Proverbs 18:2

fool = stupid, insolent

“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.”

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”

Proverbs 18:13, 15

Humility is the **“secret sauce”** of listening.

Humility empowers **patience** in our listening.

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patience = determined withholding of action
until it is the right time to act

Patience is **humility at work.**

“Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue
keeps himself out of trouble.”

Proverbs 21:23

“Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.”

Proverbs 17:28

“Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;”

James 1:19

A Prerequisite of Listening: Humility

A Threat to Listening: **Defensiveness**

Defensiveness **threatens** listening.

“If the facts are against you, pound the law into the table. If the law is against you, pound the facts into the table. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table.”

Carl Sandburg

“Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.”

Proverbs 10:17

“The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.”

Proverbs 15:31-32

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that
you may gain wisdom in the future.”

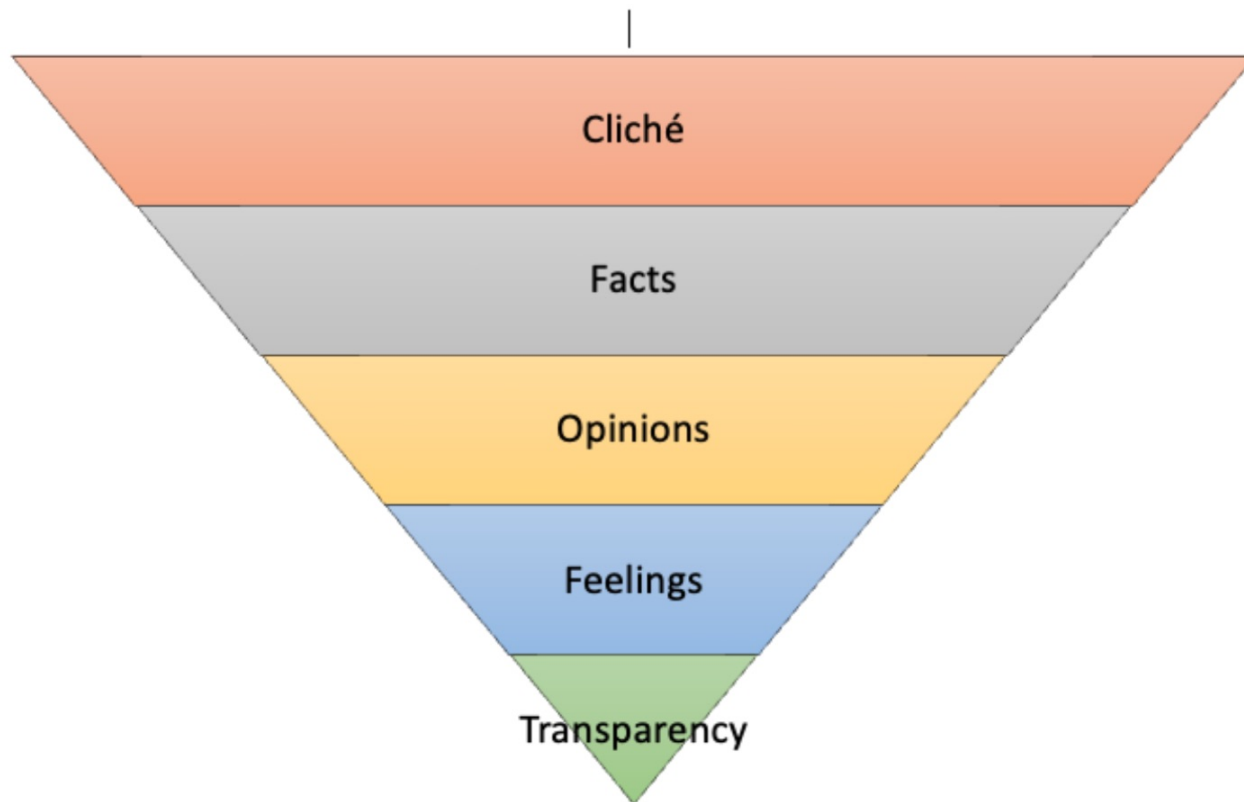
Proverbs 19:20

“Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.”

Proverbs 25:12

How do we listen without defense?

Five Levels of Relational Intimacy



“Facts are a first and last resort in a court of law, but when it comes to human relationships, let us first stop and feel before we go to facts.”

Bryan Loritts

LISTENING AND ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

LYNN ADAMS

JULY 13, 10:30 A.M.



“My Dad was taken from me 10 years ago
this year. I never could see eye to eye with
him then,

“but now that I have a son, I have so much more compassion for my Dad looking back,

“and could not be more grateful for how hard he worked to take care of me the best he could, and to help me grow up to be a good man.”

“My dad passed two years ago today, and I wasn't there, just like the narrator in the song.

“But I DID get to tell him how much I loved him, and how much he taught me, because I said it while he was alive.

“I catch his spirit all the time — in jokes I tell, in the compassion in my heart, in the twinkle in my eye. I am my father's son, and I am proud to be so.”