

Daily Devotion For April 22, 2022

“19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” James 1:19

Two days ago for my daily devotion I mentioned Darrell who was homeless and taking morning showers at the MPC gym locker room. I was very happy to see Darrell again yesterday as I was finishing up my morning swim class. I must confess however that my first impression of Darrell was, “what is he doing here?” After all, there is a big sign that says, “Showers for students only” visually displayed at the entrance to the showers. But after talking to him and listening to his situation, I began to understand the difficulties and trials that he has had to endure.

In Stephen Covey’s book, “The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People” he writes that one of the habits is: “Seek first to understand before you seek to be understood.” When we seek to understand it changes our perception and attitudes about the person or the situation. After talking with Darrell I became less judgmental and more willing to help him.

Thought For Today: Where do you fall with this habit? Do you seek first to be understood or do you seek first to understand? In the culture we live in today, do you listen with the intent to understand or do you listen with the intent to reply. While the other person is speaking are you preparing how you will respond?

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray that God will teach you how to listen to understand before you seek to be understood. Deo Volente.