

Too Busy to Listen? By Dan Blaydon

Christian singer and songwriter Cindy Morgan's father penned a song in the late seventies. Twenty years later it was completed and recorded. The chorus sings: *"But don't you know His love will shine down on you. Oh, and yes, His peace will come in and rescue. Don't you know His blood will cleanse you and save you. If you will open up your ears and open up your heart and listen."*

I've shared with some of you that I have been moving rocks onto the eroding walls of a creek bed that runs through our lot. Somewhere along the line, someone made at least one wall down there, but it was so long ago, and there wasn't a matching wall on the other side, that the water way has moved and the water doesn't even touch the rock anymore.

Now I'm trying to repair the entire bed and it's taking a lot of time and energy away from things that are probably more important than that creek bed.

Today I moved about two and a quarter tons of rock. I loaded it, unloaded it, and later will place each rock onto the bank.

Now I pretty much feel terrible, exhausted, cranky; I just want to go to bed.

So here's the thing: I knew I either shouldn't have hauled the rock today, or maybe not hauled quite so much. And now everyone around me is suffering for it.

That gut feeling that we all too often ignore, just knowing that we should do or not do something. Not listening.

For me, I often think I'm doing something for the greater good, when that still, small voice inside of me is trying to get me to listen, to choose to do what is better. The choice isn't always about chores, but it usually involves my interactions with people.

Luke 10:38-42 tells the story of Mary and Martha, where Martha is busy with preparations and Mary isn't helping her. Why, because Mary is LISTENING to Jesus. He acknowledges that "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

My crazy rock wall isn't going anywhere. I may lose a little soil to erosion, but I'm rapidly losing my summer time with my kids and my wife and I know it.

"The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

It's time for me to choose what is better. It's time for me to listen.