



The Power of Listening

Jordan Newhouse ~ May 2015

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

Dear Family and Friends,

By Tuesday afternoon, I was ready to go home, but we still had a few more hours of outreach at The University of Kansas (KU). I wasn't motivated to seek out a conversation, so God met me in my weakness and sent me Daniel.

Usually, I would begin by asking a question, but in this case, Daniel had been reading the exhibit and was ready with a question for me when I walked over to him.



Our conversation was the slowest-paced I've ever had on campus. Many times I simply sat and listened while Daniel thought out loud.

After an hour or two, he said, "I'm sorry, I'm taking up all your time. If you need to talk to someone else, you can go." But I felt that the time invested in Daniel would be well worth it.

We talked about abortion in broad terms for awhile, but soon it became more personal. He considered what it might be like if he and his girlfriend became pregnant and had an abortion. Then his thoughts turned toward his younger sister. It was painfully beautiful to see his

emotions as he imagined the sister he loves going through such an experience. I hardly needed to say a word for him to realize the gravity of such a situation.

Eventually I did leave Daniel, but not before introducing him to JFA's Executive Director Steve Wagner. The two of them, joined by a student named Sam, continued to converse for almost another hour.

When Steve, Sam, and Daniel finally parted ways, Daniel came and found me again.

"Can I give you a hug?" he asked. "Thanks for taking so much time to talk with me today."

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Never underestimate the power of listening. St Augustine is credited with saying, "The truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself." You don't need to have all the answers. Sometimes all a person needs in order to come to understand truth is for someone to listen as he uncovers it for himself.