Just Listen - v16 (710) - ? min ? sec

Introduction (165) - Fast
"You were an accident."
Did your parents ever tell you this?

Alright! - me neither but my mom was 41 when I was born.
I heard the rumors...but I didn't listen to them 🙂
Do you ever hear words but not focus on them?

Of course 'not listening' feels normal.
Like after we hear THE most-dreaded-word in the E-N-T-I-R-E English language
You all are THE GREATEST audience I've ever met...

- BUT.....
- You might not like me now that I've said the word - 'but'

'Not listening' robs us of unseen beautiful moments.
Feedback to grow comes after 'but'.
We never hear it.
We tune out.

Why don't we listen?

Point 1 - My Story Intro (115) - Slow —> Normal
Sometimes I don't allocate space to listen.
I'm selfish.
You might not notice.
But you, you don't live with me :)
Ask my wife.

Here's our typical weekend.
B: "Matt, What's your plan for Saturday?"
M: "Reading, eating, coaching, lifting, eating, writing, walking, more writing, maybe dinner at 9 o'clock?"
M: "No? EARLIER...I'm thinking that face means we should eat earlier"

I'm selfish with my time.
My wife wants to have kids.
These two things do not go together.
And so we were headed towards a bad place.
...

Do you ever take people for granted?
...
Sometimes we don't appreciate our best humans.

When I fall into that trap, I'm grateful for my mom.

Point 2 - My Mom's Story (160) - Fast —> Slow
My mom's superpower was listening.
You were *the* only person 'in - the - universe' when she talked to you.

My mom was ALWAYS on the phone.
One night I <sniffs> smelled a little smoke.
"Mom, is dinner burning again?"
The flames exploded over half our kitchen.
My mom turns around "Oh geez, I'll call ya back. MATT! Call 911!".
She focused on your thoughts over food or shelter.

My mom took me and my sister into work in the city each year.
One day she asked a homeless man.
"How's your day going sir?"
"Okay it was a cold night mam."
"Would you like to get some hot chocolate and a sandwich?"
"Yes I think I'd love that."
Listen to value and appreciate.

Now last year I saw so many doctors that one met me and said,
"*Young man*, you are singlehandedly bankrupting the American healthcare system."
That's another story, but I told my wife and she said,
But my wife and I created space to talk every night after dinner.

Point 3 - My Story Conclusion (200) - Slow —> Fast
One night after dinner, my wife said to me,
"Listen I love you with all my heart
BUT...
(that's how I *heard* it, not how she *said* it)
if we don't have kids, I'll still love you but I'll resent you too."
(It would be easy here to stop listening and start fighting.)
But I said, "Tell me more."

For this part, you should know my wife was a swim coach for fifteen years.
My wife said, "After all these years, I realized it's not coaching these kids that I love...
...
I learn so much from them.
I need to have kids because of what *THEY* can teach me."

Have you ever had one of those moments when things just 'clicked'?
....
Like a movie when you see the GIANT gears on a broken clock SLOWLY start turning.

When my wife told me her dream, the gears of life moved for me.

Now we're all adults but this is a family-friendly speech so I won't go into the particular details of what happened next.
I will say: my wife is going to make a great mom.
We expect our first little human this summer.

Conclusion (125) - Slow
Have you ever asked someone about a big decision like this?
...
I bet that person was a good listener.
Like my mom I bet that person lights your world on fire *(just maybe not as literally like our kitchen)*.
We could use more people like that.

Maybe one day you will be that person for someone.
Maybe the next time you're about to have that same-old, routine conversation.
Why not ask another question, make eye contact, and try to hear more?
You might even surprise a smile out of that person.
Pure magic.

Together we can:
Listen to value our best humans.
Listen to value the humanity in us all.
Listen to the value you create with your life.

Madame Contest Chair.

Sign - posts? not too obvious
in our everyday conversation

Create the space to listen