

The Needful Thing (Part 2)

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Broadcast Dates: 8/26/20 & 8/27/20

Message Date: 6/7/20 • 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References

Luke 10:38-42	Ephesians 6:10-18
Proverbs 4:20-27	John 10:10
Colossians 3:16	Hebrews 4:2, 3, 11
Mark 4:3-8, 11, 13-32	1 Timothy 4:15
1 Peter 1:23	Psalms 1:2
1 Corinthians 4:20	John 19:30
1 Corinthians 4:20, TPT	Revelation 16:17
Matthew 6:33	

Summary

*In today's busy and distracting world, the chatter we hear tells us to give our attention to many different things instead of the Word of God. The prevailing mindset with most people is that it is fine to listen to the Word, but we need to do something to accompany it. However, God's Word stands out as the only thing we need; if we have godly wisdom, whatever we do will succeed. When we are at a loss as to what to do, the specifics are revealed to us when we seek Jesus Christ and put **Him**, not anything we do, first. The enemy knows the power of God's Word, and will try to separate us from it and convince us it is neither important nor significant. The truth is that there is nothing greater or more powerful than the Word; after thousands of years, it still applies to us and remains relevant to our lives. We find success and victory in life only when we keep Christ at the top of our priority list.*

A. We can either focus on God's Word, or get distracted by everything else going on.

1. Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her (Luke 10:38-42).
 - a. There were plenty of other things Mary could have listened to; she chose to listen to Jesus.
2. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil (Proverbs 4:20-27).

- a. God specifically tells us to pay attention to His Word. We must examine ourselves to see if we are giving our attention to anything or anyone else more than to His Word.
- b. Whatever we attend to the most will be the harvest that shows up in our lives.
- c. Our hearts are responsible for growing the seed of God's Word. Our eyes and ears are entrances into our hearts; we must guard these entrances carefully.
- d. The word of the devil is death and sickness; the Word of God is life and health.
- e. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom... (Colossians 3:16).
- f. The Word in us tells us what to do when we do not know through our own knowledge what to do.

B. The Word always produces a good harvest. However, it must be planted in good soil.

1. Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred...And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables...And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word (Mark 4:3-8, 11, 13, 14).
 - a. We must not come up with excuses not to get in the Word. It is alive, and it *always* works.
 - b. God's Word is incorruptible seed; we never need to wonder if it will fail. We must pay attention to the state of our hearts; they should be fertile and receptive to the Word.
 - c. We can only get a harvest if we sow into good soil.
2. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever (1 Peter 1:23).
 - a. God's Word always accomplishes what it set out to do; when our hearts are ready, it will *always* produce fruit. What we draw from the seed is based on the type of ground in which it is planted.
3. The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him

shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it (Mark 4:14-32).

- a. The affliction and persecution we encounter immediately after hearing the Word is designed to pluck the seed out of us before it has a chance to take root.
- b. When we let the cares of the world preoccupy us, those cares choke the Word and make it unfruitful in our lives.

C. The world is a noisy, distracting place. We must be careful to keep our priorities straight.

1. The kingdom of God does not consist solely of speaking words; it is the ability to get results. When we sow the seed of His Word into our lives and cultivate it, we will see change.
 - a. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power (1 Corinthians 4:20).
 - b. For the kingdom realm of God comes with power, not simply impressive words (1 Corinthians 4:20, *TPT*).
2. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).
 - a. We must not make the mistake of assuming we need to add to God's Word by doing something to make it effective; the Word is the *only* thing we need. We are to put it first.
 - b. We should consider all the issues in our lives in light of what God says about them. His Word brings power and favor into operation on our behalf.
 - c. Our jobs, our children, our spouses, or any number of other things compete for our attention and devotion. We must not let them become more important than the Word and our relationship with God.
 - d. Taking God out of first place in our lives and replacing Him with something or someone else is idolatry; we live in a world full of idols.
3. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the

Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:10-18).

- a. "The whole armour of God" and "the gospel of peace" are the Word of God.
- b. We are not fighting against flesh and blood; we are in a spiritual battle against Satan, himself.
- c. When a contradiction to God's Word flies at us, we are to hold up the shield of faith to deflect it.
- d. The devil is behind all the bad in the world today; he is the author of it.
- e. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

D. God's Word brings us peace. *Our part in the process is to believe and stay at rest.*

1. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world...Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief (Hebrews 4:2, 3, 11).
 - a. The greatest fear Christians have today is the fear that God's Word will not come to pass for them. We must *believe* what He says.
 - b. The authenticity of our belief is determined by whether or not we have entered into rest. When we are at rest, we cease to labor.
 - c. As believers, our labor now consists of remaining at rest, regardless of what is going on around us.
2. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all (1 Timothy 4:15).
 - a. In the world, there are plenty of things to meditate on; we only find peace when we meditate on the Word.
3. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Psalm 1:2).
 - a. We need to ponder the covenant of grace, and think on it constantly.
4. We need to start envisioning our needs *already* being met, and celebrating the solution to situations. The finished works of Jesus Christ began when He was hanging on the cross and declared, "It is finished," just before He died. Heaven responded in kind.
 - a. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (John 19:30).
 - b. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done (Revelation 16:17).

For more on filtering out all unnecessary distractions and focusing on the only thing we need—God's Word—click on the link below for the DVD, *The Needful Thing (Part 2)*.

<https://bit.ly/TheNeedfulThingPart2DVD>

Category: faith

Keywords: needful, attention, listen, need, first, greater, powerful, priority