

# Sermon Notes

## Like a Cow - Josh 1:7-9

### August 2, 2020

#### I. Introduction

- a. the Word of God isn't always well-received...  
Matt 11:6... "blessed is the one who isn't offended by Me..."  
Matt 13:21... "when trouble arises because of the Word... and he is offended..."  
Matt 15:12... "do you know the Pharisees were offended by what you said..."  
skandalizo... put a stumbling block in the way; cause to fall away; cause to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey; to cause displeasure at a thing...
- b. God wants you to prosper... honestly, that offends some people...  
Gen 12:2... "I will make you into a great nation... I will bless you..."  
Gen 39:2-5... "Joseph... prospered... everything he did was successful..."  
Deut 8:18... "He is the One who gives you power to gain wealth..."  
Neh 2:20... "the God of heaven Himself will prosper us..."  
Psa 34:10... "those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing..."  
Psa 35:27... "the Lord... has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant..."  
Psa 122:6... "may those who love you prosper..."  
Prov 16:20... "those who listen to instruction will prosper..."  
Prov 28:25... "those who trust in the Lord will prosper..."  
Jer 29:11... "I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you..."  
Jer 33... "be in awe... because of all the good and prosperity I will bring..."  
shalom/deshen/tsalach... prosperity; make progress; succeed; act wisely; be at rest...
- c. that's just OT shadow... how about NT substance...  
John 10:10... "My purpose is to give you a rich and satisfying life..."  
Acts 13:17... "God made the people prosper..."  
Rom 8:32... "He, with Him... will freely give us all things..."  
Rom 10:12... "the Lord gives generously to all who call on Him..."  
2Cor 8:9... "though He was rich... became poor... so you become rich..."  
2Cor 9:6-11... "you will be enriched in every way... for all generosity..."  
Eph 3:8... "grace given to proclaim incalculable riches of Messiah..."  
Phil 4:19... "God will supply all your needs according to His riches..."  
3John 2... "wish above all things... you prosper and be in good health..."  
plouteo/ploutos... abundance of outward possessions; riches, wealth...
- d. are we in agreement... so how do you prosper... pray...  
Phil 4... "put into practice all you learned, received, heard, seen in me..."  
1Tim 4... "practice these things... be committed... progress evident to all..."

#### II. Like a Cow

- a. biblical prosperity starts with biblical meditation... focus mind on Him more, not less... New Age/Eastern meditation empties mind to allow evil to enter...  
Isa 26:3... "You will keep in perfect peace the mind that is fixed on You..."  
Heb 3:1... "fix your thoughts on Jesus..."  
Heb 12:2... "keeping our eyes on Jesus... from start to finish..."  
1Pet 1:13... "set your hope on grace... brought by revelation of Jesus..."
- b. biblical meditation involves speaking... retain 90% of what we say and do...  
Psa 1:1-3... "delight in law... meditate on it day and night..."  
1Tim 4:15... "meditate on these things (grace)... progress evident to all..."  
hagah/melatao... mutter, speak, whisper, murmur; talk under your breath...
- c. some think church isn't prospering because of sin... not the issue, sin is completely paid for... gospel is simple, but not easy... lack of knowledge and unbelief is the issue... trees don't prosper in drought... we don't without word...  
2Cor 11:3... "fear you have been deceived... from simplicity in Christ..."  
Hosea 4:6... "people destroyed... lack of knowledge... rejected knowledge..."  
Luke 24:25... "how unwise and slow you are to believe..."  
Eph 4:18... "excluded from life... because of ignorance, hard heart..."
- d. difference between reading, hearing, meditating... bible says only meditating makes you prosper... not only good to be like a tree... good to be like a cow...  
Psa 35:27-28... "pleasure in prosperity... speak of Your praises all day long..."  
Psa 71:24... "my tongue shall talk of Your righteousness all day long..."  
Psa 77:12... "I meditate on Your work... talk of Your deeds..."
- e. cows don't have four stomachs... organ with four compartments... as they eat, food goes into first one... later, when they rest, bring it back up... grind into smaller pieces for easier digestion... that describes meditation perfectly...  
Psa 63:6... "when on my bed... I think of You... I meditate on You..."  
Psa 119... "my eyes are awake... that I may meditate on Your word..."  
Psa 143:5... "I meditate on all You have done..."
- f. cow chews cud to get all nutrients out of food... doesn't just eat and stop... spiritually, don't just read, hear, stop... chew on that passage...  
John 3:16... "God so loved... gave His Son... believe and have eternal life..."  
Heb 10:26... "sin willfully... no longer a sacrifice for sins... only judgment..."
- g. healthy cows chew the cud... healthy Christians meditate on Word... longer you chew, more nourishment, sweetness, and understanding you will get...  
Prov 3:13... "blessed are those who find wisdom... gain understanding..."  
Prov 4:7... "get wisdom... and whatever else you get, get understanding..."  
Prov 16:16... "get wisdom... get understanding... better than silver or gold..."  
Prov 24:3... "house is built by wisdom... becomes strong thru understanding..."
- h. be like a cow... chewing on that spiritual food... going over and over that verse you need... reading and hearing are not meditation... speaking is...  
Josh 1:7-9... "this book... must not depart from your mouth... meditate daily..."  
Psa 107:2... "let the redeemed of the Lord say so..."  
Mark 11:23-24... "whoever says to mountain and believes... it will be done..."  
2Cor 1:20... "every one of God's promises is Yes... therefore we say Amen..."  
2Cor 4:13... "I believed, therefore I spoke... we also believe and speak..."  
Heb 13:5-6... "He Himself has said... therefore, we may boldly say..."
- i. if you can worry (negative), you can meditate... have power to call things into existence... put word in heart and call forth life, peace, prosperity... pray...  
Job 3:25... "thing I greatly feared has come... what I dreaded has happened..."  
Prov 18:21... "words kill, words give life... poison or fruit... you choose..."  
Rom 4:17... "call into existence the things that do not exist..."  
Psa 119:11... "I have hidden your Word in my heart..."  
Prov 4: 23... "out of heart come issues of life... as think in heart, so is he..."

## He Said

Heb 13:5-6... *He said, therefore we may boldly say...*

If we can only grasp these **words** by faith, we have an **all-conquering weapon** in our hand. What doubt will not be slain by this two-edged sword? What fear is there which shall not fall smitten with a deadly wound before this arrow from the bow of God's covenant?

Will not the distresses of life and the pains of death... will not the corruptions within, and the snares without... will not the trials from above, and the temptations from beneath... all seem but light afflictions, when we can hide ourselves beneath the bulwark of *He hath said*? Yes, whether for delight in our quietude, or for strength in our conflict, *He hath said* must be our daily resort.

And this may teach us the **extreme value** of **searching the Scriptures**. There may be a promise in the Word which would exactly fit your case, but you may not know of it, and therefore you miss its comfort. You are like prisoners in a dungeon, and there may be one key in the bunch which would unlock the door, and you might be free... but if you will not look for it, you may remain a prisoner still, though liberty is so near at hand.

There may be a potent medicine in the great pharmacopoeia of Scripture, and you may yet continue sick unless you will examine and **search the Scriptures** to discover what *He hath said*.

Should you not, beside reading the Bible, store your memories richly with the promises of God? You can recollect the sayings of great men... you treasure up the verses of renowned poets; ought you not to be profound in your **knowledge of the words** of God, so that you may be able to **quote them readily** when you would solve a difficulty, or overthrow a doubt?

Since *He hath said* is the **source of all wisdom**, and the **fountain of all comfort**, let it dwell in you richly, as *a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life*. So shall you grow healthy, strong, and happy in the divine life.

**Charles Spurgeon**  
**Morning and Evening Devotional – February 21<sup>st</sup>**

## Sermon Study

*Like a Cow - Josh 1:7-9 - August 2, 2020*

1. Read **Matt 11:6... Matt 13:21... Matt 15:12**. Has the Word of God ever **offended** you? Explain.
2. Does God want you to **prosper**? Read **Neh 2:20... Psa 35:27... Prov 28:25... Jer 29:11... Jer 33:1-9... John 10:10... Rom 10:12... 2Cor 9:6-11** (sermon notes has about a dozen extra passages). Why do you think some people **wouldn't believe** this?
3. What's the difference between **biblical meditation** and New Age meditation? Read **Isa 26:3... Heb 3:1... Heb 12:2... 1Pet 1:13**.
4. Is sin the reason the church **isn't prospering**? Why or why not? Read **Hosea 4:6... Luke 24:25... Eph 4:18**.
5. What happens when you **chew** on passages of scripture? Read **Prov 3:13... Prov 4:7... Prov 16:16... Prov 24:3**. Why is **understanding** what you are reading so important?
6. What's the difference between reading, hearing, and **meditating**? Read **Psa 35:28... Psa 71:24... Psa 77:12**. Why do you think it's so important to **speak** the Word of God? Read **Josh 1:7-9... Psa 107:2... Mark 11:23-24... 2Cor 1:20; 4:13... Heb 13:5-6**.
7. What are you **calling into** existence? Read **Job 3:25... Prov 18:21... Rom 4:17... Psa 119:11... Prov 4:23... Prov 23:7**.

The most important thing to do is meditate on the Word. Your heart will be comforted, encouraged, warned, and instructed. The weaker we are, the more meditation we need to give us peace to pass thru trials. **George Muller**

Meditation on the Word is one of the most important ways we grow spiritually. There can be no true progress in practical godliness without it. **AW Pink**