

Sermon Notes

Like a Nap - Mark 4:26-27

August 23, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. anybody like naps... greatest thing God invented... do your work, then rest...
Gen 2:1-3... “**completed His work... rested... blessed 7th day, made holy...**”
Mark 4:26-27 **GSV**... “**power and authority are like this... take the Word... plant it in your heart... rest... and it will grow and produce results...**”
- b. part of your work is to meditate on His Word... God’s plan for success...
Josh 1:7-9... “**study Book continually, meditate... then prosper and succeed...**”
Psa 1:1-3... “**meditate day and night... whatever he does prospers...**”
1Tim 4:15... “**meditate on these things (grace)... progress evident to all...**”
hagah/melatao... *mutter, speak, whisper, murmur; talk under your breath...*
- c. what famine are you facing... God has answers... in word, not world... you will harvest what you plant... so what are you planting... **pray**...
Gen 26:1-14... “**famine... don’t go to Egypt, live in Gerar... very prosperous...**”
Isa 55... “**my word will not return empty... prosper in what I send it to do...**”
Matt 6... “**do not worry... seek first His righteousness... all things added...**”
Rom 1... “**gospel is THE power for salvation to everyone who believes...**”
soteria... *deliverance, preservation, safety, health, salvation...*

I can read writings from Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Henry Thoreau and expect to learn great philosophy. I can read writings from Stalin, Marx, and Lenin and learn about socialism. Or I can saturate my life with the Word of God, which is the Christ, and it will transform my life into unworldly perfection. SD Farmer

II. Like a Nap

- a. one of main issues I see in church is lack of preparedness... wait for crisis and then attempt to prepare... often, that can be too late...
Prov 20:4... “**slacker does not plant during season... at harvest, has nothing...**”
Prov 22:3... “**prudent person sees danger and takes precautions...**”
2Tim 4:2... “**preach Word... be prepared... whether it’s convenient or not...**”
1Pet 3:15... “**always be prepared to give an answer for the hope within you...**”
- b. time to prepare is when you’re at peace, not war... OT pictures of meditation... strengthening and building ourselves up... before famine and battle starts...
Gen 41:47-54... “**stored up grain in abundance... famine began... had food...**”
1Kings 9:15-19... “**rebuilt cities... built supply centers... chariots, cavalry...**”
1Chron 22:5... “**David made extensive preparations for the temple...**”
Psa 91:4... “**His faithful promises are your armor and protection...**”
Matt 25:1-13... “**five foolish virgins, five wise... foolish left out... be alert...**”
Luke 14:28... “**suppose you want to build... sit down and estimate the cost...**”
Eph 6:10-18... “**put on full armor... resist... be prepared to take your stand...**”
1Pet 5:8... “**stay alert... watch out for your enemy...**”

Those who fail to prepare have prepared to fail. Benjamin Franklin

- c. meditation is about speaking words of life... leads to renewed mind... mind fixed on God... mind that agrees with Him above everything else...
Rom 12:2... “**do not be conformed... be transformed in renewing of mind...**”
Eph 4:23... “**let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes...**”
Col 3:10... “**put on new self... renewed in true knowledge of your Creator...**”
3John 2... “**prosper and be in good health... as your soul prospers...**”
- d. devil is trying to plant lies in your heart... God is trying to plant truth... who are you going to believe... who do you agree with... one leads to death, one to life...
Amos 3:3... “**can two walk together unless they are agreed...**”
John 8:30-47... “**devil is father of lies... I tell truth, yet you do not believe me...**”
- e. harvest is determined by what you plant... so plant what you want to harvest...
Rom 4:17... “**he believed... calls things into existence that don’t exist...**”
Rom 10:9-10... “**confess with mouth, believe in heart, be saved...**”
2Cor 4:13... “**keeping with same spirit of faith... I believed, therefore I spoke...**”
1Tim 6:12... “**fight good fight of belief... take hold of life... confess it...**”
kaleo/homolegeo/laleo... *say the same thing as; declare openly; utter aloud...*
- f. how can you tell what you believe... listen to what you speak... speak what we believe... words come from heart... out of heart come issues of life...
Prov 4:23... “**guard your heart... it determines the course of your life...**”
Matt 15:18... “**the words you speak come from the heart...**”
Jam 3:2... “**if we could control our tongues... we’d be perfect in every way...**”
1Pet 3:10... “**if you want to enjoy life, see happy days... don’t speak evil...**”
- g. what results do we get when we believe God... and say what He says...
Prov 12:18... “**the tongue of the wise brings healing...**”
Prov 13:3... “**those who control their tongue will have long life...**”
Prov 15:1-4... “**gentle words bring life and health...**”
Prov 16:24... “**kind words are sweet to the soul... healthy for the body...**”
Mark 11:23... “**whoever believes what he says... will have whatever he says...**”
Rom 10:9-10... “**confess with mouth, believe in heart, be saved... believe with heart, resulting in righteousness... confess with mouth, resulting in salvation...**”
sozo/soteria... *keep safe and sound; rescue from danger or destruction; save a suffering one from disease; make well, heal, restore to health; rescue, preservation, safety...*
- h. biblical meditation produces prosperity, but that’s not all... life comes from water, yours is plentiful... it produces results... you’ll have more energy... make progress, succeed, be at rest or at ease, wisely understand, excel...
Psa 1:1-3... “**meditate on it day and night... like tree planted by streams of water... bear fruit... leaf does not wither... whatever he does prospers...**”
- i. *too easy pastor, just too easy... can’t be that simple... foolish to think so...*
1Cor 1:18-31... “**message of cross is foolish... I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent... this foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans... boast in the Lord...**”
2Cor 11:3... “**fear you have been deceived... from simplicity in Christ...**”
- j. even modern science agrees words are incredibly important... if things are working the way you’re doing it... ignore everything I’ve said the last month... if not, maybe it’s time to start doing it God’s way... **pray**...
Eph 4:29... “**let everything you say be good, helpful, and encouraging...**”
Col 4:6... “**let your speech always be full of grace...**”

Quotes

Why do people complain? The idea is to vent. We reason if we can get our emotions out, we'll feel better. There are a few serious flaws in that reasoning. Not only does expressing negativity NOT make us feel better, but it's catching, making listeners feel worse. It sounds like a good idea, but it's dead wrong. Farting in an elevator may feel right, but it's dead wrong.
Dr. Jeffrey Lohr - Univ of AR - Scientific Review of Mental Health

According to Psychology Today and the Mayo Clinic, stress will kill you. Complaining can literally kill you. Having a thought makes it easier for you to have that thought again. Repeated negative thoughts make it easier to think more negative thoughts. Negative thoughts rewire your brain. So does hanging out with negative people. If you want to strengthen your capacity for positive thoughts, stop hanging around people who complain. Quitting complaining is also essential for physical health. When your brain is focused on the negative, it will weaken your immune system, raise your blood pressure, and increase your risk of heart disease, obesity, and other ailments.
Steven Parton - Science of Happiness

What you expose yourself to will determine your thoughts. Your thoughts determine your feelings. Your feelings determine your actions. Your actions determine your habits. Your habits will determine your character and your character will determine your destination in life. Your heart is the ground in which the seed will grow. Good or bad. You are not always in control of your circumstances, but you are always in control of your heart. What you believe will go into your heart and will eventually become your life.
Pastor Creflo Dollar

Sermon Study

Like a Nap - **Mark 4:26-27** - August 23, 2020

1. Read **Mark 4:26-27** gsv. Explain what that **looks like** in your life. What **seeds** are you planting? What **harvest** are you expecting?
2. How often do you **prepare** for the unexpected? Read **Prov 20:4... Prov 22:3... 2Tim 4:2... Gen 41:47-54... 1Kings 9:15-19... 1Chron 22:5... Matt 25:1-13... Luke 14:28... Eph 6:10-18**. Why do you think it's important to prepare physically and spiritually?
3. Read **Amos 3:3** and **John 8:30-47**. If someone looked at **your life** and your decisions... would they say you **agreed more** with God or the devil? What would you say? How could you prove it?
4. Why is **what we say** so important? Read **Rom 4:17; 10:9-10... 2Cor 4:13... 1Tim 6:12... Prov 4:23... Matt 15:18... James 3:2**.
5. What **results** do we get when we say what God says? Read **Prov 12:18; 13:3; 15:1-4; 16:24... Mark 11:23... Rom 10:9-10**.
6. Do you believe this is **all too easy**? What does God say? Read **1Cor 1:18-31** and **2Cor 11:3**. **Who** will you believe?

I can read writings from Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Henry Thoreau and expect to learn great philosophy. I can read writings from Stalin, Marx, and Lenin and learn about socialism. Or I can saturate my life with the Word of God, which is the Christ, and it will transform my life into unworldly perfection. **SD Farmer**