

Sermon Notes

Get In - Matt 4:4

February 7, 2021

I. Introduction

- a. only way to get out of complacency is to get in to God's word... will of God is food... any other will... ours, worlds... is poison and will destroy us...
Prov 1:20-33... "listen to My counsel... live in peace... untroubled by fear..."
Prov 14:30... "a peaceful heart (content) leads to a healthy body..."
Matt 4:4... "man does not live by bread... but every word that comes from God..."
John 4:34... "my food is to do the will of Him who sent Me..."

Philosophy has been defined as a blind man searching in a dark room for a black cat that isn't there. In all phases of life there is *the way* and *not-the-way*. H₂O produces water. You may fight with the formula and try to twist it into something else, but in the end, you will surrender to it, accept it, and obey it, or you will not produce water. H₂O is the way. Everything else is not-the-way. E. Stanley Jones

- b. what are you relying on to produce life... education, government, medicine... what boat are you in... time to get out and walk on water... pray...

II. Get In

- a. critical quality between complacency and contentment... patience... ability to not quit, not cave, not give up... must keep moving forward...
Gal 6:8-10... "not get tired of good... reap at proper time if we do not give up..."
Heb 6:12... "inherit God's promises thru faith and patience..."
- b. always temptation to quit... marriage, job, exercise, school, life... *pressure applied to get you to go against God's word; strong desire for a wrongful pleasure that offers temporary escape from an agonizing emotion*... what is that for you... another way to escape pressure is to quit... didn't get immediate results, give up...
John 16:33... "in this world you will have trials and sorrows..."
1Cor 10:13... "no temptation has seized you that is not common to man..."
1Pet 4:12... "don't be surprised at trials... as if they were something strange..."
- c. everyone is tempted to quit... even some of Jesus' disciples wanted out... how did apostles hang in there and find life... by knowing words of Jesus...
John 6:63-69... "words I have spoken are Spirit and life... some of you don't believe... many disciples turned away and deserted Him... are you also going to leave... to whom would we go, Your words are life, we believe and know..."
- d. important we don't give up... people needs answers... you have them... found when you get in Word... are you prepared for what is coming... world is a battleground, not playground... *open war is upon us*... only what you do for Christ will last...
Isa 55:11... "word not return void... accomplish all I want... prosper everywhere..."
John 4:35... "open your eyes... look at fields... they are ready for harvest..."
1Cor 15:58... "stand firm... know your labor for the Lord is not in vain..."
2Cor 3:5... "no lasting value on our own... only power, success from God..."
2Cor 6:2... "now is the right time... now is the day of salvation..."

- e. living as a Christian is not easy... people will hate you for no reason other than you love Jesus... rejoice in that... evidence you are living a godly life...
Mark 13:13... "everyone will hate you because you are my followers... the one who endures to the end (doesn't quit) will be saved..."
sozo... keep safe and sound; rescue from danger; make well, heal, restore; save from evil...
2Tim 3:12... "all who want to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted..."
- f. most days we need help to keep praying, loving, working, serving, giving... need help to keep moving forward and not quit... God is gracious to provide it...
Psa 46:1-2... "God is our strength... always ready to help in time of trouble..."
Isa 41:10... "do not fear, I'm with you... I'll help you... hold you with my hand..."
Mark 10:27... "with man this is impossible... all things are possible with God..."
John 15:5... "remain in Me... produce much fruit... apart, you can do nothing..."
Phil 4:13... "I can do all things thru Him who gives me strength..."
- g. not about you... not about how strong, smart, disciplined you are... but about how faithful God is... contentment comes when you look to Him... difficulty helps us mature... very few people build muscle by not lifting weights...
Deut 7:9... "know your God is faithful... keeping covenant for 1000 generations..."
1Cor 1:9... "God is faithful to do what He says... invited you into partnership..."
2Cor 1:18-20... "as God is faithful... our message is always Yes... in Christ..."
2Thess 3:3... "the Lord is faithful... He will strengthen and guard you..."
Heb 10:23... "hold fast our confession of hope... He who promised is faithful..."
- h. to help conquer quitting... stop thinking about quitting... stop looking at past failures... keep looking at Word... and move forward...
Prov 23:7... "as a man thinks in his heart... so is he..."
Phil 3:12-18... "make every effort... forget past, look forward to what's ahead..."
Heb 12:1-3... "run with endurance... looking to Jesus... start to finish..."
- i. often afraid to get in word because of gsc... when you're in Christ, it's not there... word is what encourages us... strengthens us... picks us back up... don't run from God when you mess up... run to Him... He'll get you back on path...
Acts 13:39 AMP... "everyone who believes in Him is freed from all guilt..."
Rom 8:1... "no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus..."
Rom 10:11... "everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame..."
Rom 1:12... "when we get together... encourage and be encouraged... in faith..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture useful... teaching, rebuking, correcting, training..."
- j. consequences to quitting... nothing better on other side... full of regret... always wonder what *could have been*... giving up actually leads to sin and destruction...
Heb 3:12-14... "watch out... evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from God... encourage each other... so none is hardened by sin's deception... hold firm..."
Heb 10:35-39... "need endurance... righteous will live by faith... if he draws back (quits) he will be destroyed... we are those who have faith and are saved..."
- k. conqueror in Christ... can't be unless there's stuff to conquer... trouble, calamity, persecution, hunger, danger, death... battle is in mind... get in Word to win... pray...
Rom 8:37... "in all these things... more than conquerors thru Him who loved us..."
Rom 12:2... "don't copy world... let God transform by changing way you think..."
Heb 12:3... "think of Him... less you become weary and faint in your mind..."
2Cor 4... "since we have this ministry... been shown mercy... therefore, we do not give up... don't distort, tell truth of gospel... grace reaches more people, God gets glory... we never give up... present troubles small compared to glory forever..."

Get In

Matt 4:4... *man doesn't live on bread alone, but every word from God...*

There is something in Christ that is native to my blood. He is at home there. **When He controls, I am calm, creative, and contributive.** When He controls my thoughts and feelings, they function well, perfectly, in fact, for they are made for His control. When they get under the control of resentments, fear, and selfishness, they function badly.

Jesus said that man lives on *every word that issues from the mouth of God.* As the stomach and food are made for each other, so we are fashioned in our inner natures for the will of God **as expressed in His words.** So, we *live* on them. We perish on any contradictory word. And it says *every*, there is no exception. People perish when they live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of hate, greed, and fear.

Jesus said, *My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me.* The will of God was *food*; it fed Him. **Any other will contrary to God's will is poison.** My poison is to do my own will when my own will clashes with God's. It leaves me frustrated, sick.

Again, Jesus says, *He who does not gather with me scatters.* Life is scattered, goes to pieces, breaks down if it is not held together by Christ. On the contrary, those who **gather with Christ** gather up the forces of their own souls into living unity. They are **put together in harmony.** *Do not be senseless but understand what is the Lord's will.* If you know God's will, you will have sense; if you don't, you are senseless.

Get Christ right in your life, and then all of life will come out with it. For **Christ and life are one.** *All things have been created by Him and for Him.* We are not only made *by Him* but also *for Him.* That is, **life works in Christ's way and in no other way.** Look at everything in your life... every organ, every relationship... and you can see, if you have eyes to see, this written in everything. Made for Him. When life finds Him, it finds its own fulfillment. **God's will is my peace.**

O God, when you fashioned me, you fashioned me for your will and purposes. In them I live... **live radiantly, rhythmically, abundantly.** If myself, I perish. So I exchange my foolish ways for your will, and then I find my own wise ways hidden in me. I accept it now. And I thank you.

E. Stanley Jones
The Way Devotional - Week 5

Sermon Study

Get In - Matt 4:4 - February 7, 2021

1. How well do you **get in** to God's Word? What happens when we **do or don't**? Read **Prov 1:20-33... Prov 14:30... Matt 4:4.**
2. Read the **quote about h2o** from E Stanley Jones. How much do you try to **do things your way** and not God's? How's that going?
3. What is a **key requirement** for getting out of complacency and **getting in** contentment? Read **Gal 6:8-10** and **Heb 6:12.**
4. What things are you **tempted by**? How do they offer a **temporary** escape from agonizing emotions? Is it **unusual** to be tempted? Read **John 16:33... 1Cor 10:13... 1Pet 4:12.**
5. Why shouldn't we **give up**? Read **John 4:35** and **1Cor 15:58.** Why is the Word important? Read **Isa 55:11** and **2Cor 3:5.**
6. What is **God's part** in helping us? Read **Psa 46:1-2... Isa 41:10... Mark 10:27... John 15:5... Phil 4:13.** Are you experiencing that? Is God **trustworthy**? Read **Deut 7:9... 1Cor 1:9... 2Cor 1:18.**
7. Why is **what you think** important? Read **Prov 23:7** and **Rom 12:2.** What can **quitting** lead to? Read **Heb 3:12-14; 10:35-39.**
8. How can we be **encouraged and strengthened** not to quit? Read **Rom 1:12... 2Tim 3:16... Rom 8:37... Heb 12:3... 2Cor 4.**