

LESSON 2.1 • CARES OF THIS WORLD

OUTLINE

- I. It is easy nowadays to let the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things enter in and choke the Word:

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] 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.

MARK 4:18-19

- A. When the seed (the Word of God) is planted in the ground (our hearts), it has the potential to produce a hundredfold.
- B. But the seed doesn't determine how much is produced; the ground does.
- C. When things enter into our hearts and choke God's Word, we limit what God can do in our lives.

- II. We cannot really understand the greatness of God without being still and shutting some things out.

- A. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God."
- B. If we are busy and have too much going on in the background of our lives, we will limit our ability to hear God and will miss what He is telling us to do.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

1 KINGS 19:11-12

- C. God can yell and do things in a spectacular way, but the true nature of God is a still, small voice.
- D. Jesus said, "I'm meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matt. 11:29).
- E. The way that 99 percent of us are going to relate to the Lord is through something subtle and simple.

- III. God is constantly speaking to us, but we need to spend time being still.
- A. Many of us don't like to be still, because when we do, we begin to think, *Is this all there is? Is this all my life is meant to be? Is there something more? Am I really doing what God called me to do?*
 - B. Most of us are uncomfortable with these questions and don't want to deal with them, so we drown them out.
 - C. This keeps us from hearing the voice of God.
 - D. Rather than boasting about our busyness, we need to get to a place that's conducive to hearing God's voice.
 - E. Jesus separated His disciples and told them to come apart and rest awhile (Mark 6:31).
 - F. Jesus Himself stayed up all night praying (Matt. 14), recharging His spiritual batteries by communing with His Father.
 - G. If Jesus needed to separate, then we need to follow His example and do the same.
- IV. God has given us the authority to run our own lives, but we can only reach our full potential when become God dependent and look to Him for leadership.

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

JEREMIAH 10:23

- A. We need to spend time with God and His Word and follow His plan for our lives.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

- B. God gave us a choice, but the right choice is to choose life—to choose God.

- V. You need to keep your mind stayed on the Lord.
- A. The part of you that meditates on the Word is the same part that worries.
 - B. Worry is meditation in a negative form.
 - C. You have the power to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

- D. If you are not in perfect peace, your mind is not stayed on the Lord (Is. 26:3).
- E. If you are going to take the limits off God, you are going to have to diminish the junk of this world that is coming into your heart, still yourself, be quiet, and start listening to God.

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DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Mark 4:18-19, what can happen when things of this world choke out the Word of God?
 - A. You can't have children
 - B. The Word becomes unfruitful
 - C. You can lose your job
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. *Discussion question:* What are some things that choke the Word and limit what God can do in your life?

3. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be _____, and _____ that I am God."

4. If you are busy and have too much going on in the background of your life, what will happen?

5. What did Jesus say in Matthew 11:29?

- A. "I am the Son of God"
- B. "I am proud and arrogant in heart"
- C. "My yoke is easy and My burden is light"
- D. "I am mighty and awesome, and here is a fireworks display"
- E. "I am meek and lowly in heart"

6. *Discussion question:* Why do you think the main way you are going to relate to the Lord is through something subtle and simple?

7. How often is God speaking to you?

8. Why do many not like to be still?

- A. They begin to think of questions that make them uncomfortable
- B. They hear strange noises
- C. They get telephone calls and need to talk
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

9. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people tend to drown out uncomfortable questions and God's voice with busyness?

10. What did Jesus have to do to recharge His spiritual batteries?

- A. Go on vacation
- B. Exercise His authority and demand His rest
- C. Stay up and commune with His Father
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

11. If Jesus needed to separate, do you need to follow His example and do the same?

12. Your full potential is reached when you become _____, not independent.

13. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God gave you a choice and told you to choose life (Deut. 30:19)?

14. True or false: Worry is meditation in a negative form.

15. According to 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, what do you have the power to do?

16. You have to diminish the _____ of this world that is coming into your _____, if you are going to take the limits off God.

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SCRIPTURES

MARK 4:18-19

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, [19] 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.

PSALM 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

1 KINGS 19:11-12

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: [12] And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

MATTHEW 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

PSALM 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

MARK 6:31

And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

JEREMIAH 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) [5] Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

ISAIAH 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.