

SERMON NOTES SERIES

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

A SAD
REALITY



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Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9).*** I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

A SAD REALITY

Matthew 9:37-38 [37] Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; [38] Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

1. God compares working for Him is like harvesting wheat.
2. Doing ministry, working for the Lord takes a lot of work. Even in this church alone, the workload is tremendous. But, the laborers are few.
 - a. Those who do put in time and effort to help the church grow are overworked and many times are on the edge of burnout.

Matthew 9:37-38 (NLT) [37] He said to his disciples, "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. [38] So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."

3. And so, a call has been made over the years for more workers. Not volunteers, but workers. What's the difference?
 - a. A volunteer is select in what they are willing to do to get their hands dirty.
 - b. A worker does what needs to be done to complete the mission at hand.
4. So what stops people from becoming harvesters for the Kingdom?

Romans 12:1-2 [1] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

5. This would seem to be the most obvious answer.

Romans 12:1-2 (NLT) [1] And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you,

is this too much to ask? [2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

6. But let's look at the real root of spiritual inactivity.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

7. Did you catch it. Here it is: **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.**
 - a. Meaning don't be conceited and/or self-important.
8. The reason the laborers are few is because people only think of themselves.
 - a. And, **to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

- b. Meaning that they don't think to use the measure of faith God has given them.
9. This is both in a positive way and in a negative way.
- a. They are either too good, know better, seen better, have done better than to get involved.
 - b. Or, they allow fear, rules, low self-esteem, feelings of unworthiness to hinder them from getting involved.
 - c. Let me give you an example of both found in one man God used.

1 Kings 19:1-3 [1] And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. [2] Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. [3] And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

10. Elijah had just been used by God. Fire was supernaturally called from heaven and the occultic influence was removed in an instant.

11. Now he hears that someone didn't like the results of his ministry, gets threatened and runs for his life. Fear has set in.

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

12. Fear turned into a "*feeling sorry for myself mentality*," Now he wants to die. What is he doing?

- a. **Thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think.**
- b. And, not **thinking soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

13. If faith gets you into a mess, then faith must be maintained to get you out of a mess.

- a. This fearful, self pity gets worse.

1 Kings 19:9-10 [9] And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? [10] And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy

covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

14. Now Elijah becomes too important in his own eyes. He complained to God and believed that he was the only one serving Him.
 - a. He told God that every other person had torn down God's altars and were serving Baal.
 - b. Elijah just knew that God would agree with him.
15. So God gives Elijah a supernatural encounter but Elijah still has the big head, know better, seen better, experienced better, lived better mentality.

1 Kings 19:14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

16. Self importance: **thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think** and not **thinking soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

1 Kings 19:15-16 [15] And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: [16] And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.

17. Now Elijah discovers that he is getting a replacement.
 - a. Twice Elijah told the Lord, "I, even I only am left and now they seek my life."
 - b. In other words Elijah was saying, "*God, no one else is serving you except me, and you stand a good chance of losing me. What will you do without me?*"
 - c. Because Elijah would not stop complaining, God decided to replace him.
18. I have noticed over the years that when people complain about the ministry God would have them sit under, whether it was musicians, other ministers or specially talented people, that their life, finances, ministry and personal endeavors would be put on hold as long as they complained.
 - a. Their complaints were usually based on comparisons.

1 Corinthians 10:9-10 [9] Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. [10] Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

19. Elijah must have thought that he would be replaced by one of the existing sons of the prophets from one of the schools of the prophets.
 - a. They were important young men.
 - b. They held degrees from the school of the prophets.
 - c. Elijah may have taught a class there himself once or twice.
20. Besides, Elijah was well known in his circle of ministry friends. He had a big mailing list, hundreds of mail outs shipped daily, and a rigorous schedule to meet.
 - a. He had spent years perfecting this ministry.
 - b. It would take someone very special to take over such a ministry operation.
 - c. So let's go find out at what school of the prophets this Elisha fellow is at.

1 Kings 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

21. He found Elisha, but not where he thought he would be. The mighty Elijah was going to be replaced by a...farmer.
22. He told Elijah he would find his successor plowing a field behind twelve yoke of oxen. Elijah would be replaced by a farmer. A *nobody* would replace Elijah!
23. Now Elijah is mad at God and he is not happy the way his ministry is turning out. How can you tell?
 - a. And Elijah "passed" by him, and cast his mantle upon him.
 - b. He walked past God's choice and then cast (Hb *-shalak* - to throw or hurl).
24. He didn't walk up to Elisha, have him bow, pray a cool prayer, anoint him with oil and gently place the mantle on him.
 - a. He passed by and threw it on Elisha...why?
 - b. Because he was thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think.

- c. And, he was not **thinking soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**
25. This self importance attitude almost caused Elijah's ministry to die had he continued walking past Elisha without acknowledging God's choice.
- a. This was a little hard on Elijah's ego.
 - b. Elijah had forgotten that we all begin as nobodies.
 - c. Even Elijah was an unknown when God found him.
26. There were many young prophets in training at the time. It would seem obvious that God would choose Elijah's successor from that group of prophets in training.
- a. But God told Elijah he would be replaced by Elisha, a farmer.
 - b. Elisha wasn't in school studying to be a prophet, but was faithfully working in his father's field.
27. God delights in turning a nobody into a somebody.
- a. People who are important in their own eyes are in for a let down when they want to be used by God.

- b. God uses people who do not think too highly of themselves.
 - c. God uses people who will use faith, not surrender to fear, become legalists because of rules or are self important in their own eyes.
 - d. Elisha's first miracle was the same as Elijah's last, the parting of the Jordan River.
28. Here's the catch. When God does find a somebody, He sends them to the backside of the wilderness until they become a nobody.
- a. Moses was in the desert for 40 years learning to be a nobody.
 - b. Remember, he was the adopted son of Pharaoh, he was self important in his own eyes.
 - c. The apostle Paul waited 17 years to become a nobody before God launched him.
29. God had Moses and Paul stay in the wilderness, away from the view of people to learn how to not think highly of themselves and how to use faith.
30. So what is God looking for in harvesters?

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

31. Faithfulness put Paul in the ministry. Faithfulness put Timothy in the ministry.
- a. Faithfulness is the key.
32. God is not looking for qualifications. Above all else He is looking for faithfulness in one He has set apart.
33. See, you can teach a person qualifications, but you can't teach them faithfulness.
- a. A person is either faithful or not faithful.
34. When we stand before God, He will **NOT** say, "Well done thou good and qualified servant."
35. Faithfulness in life will be the foundation for our eternal rewards.
36. Next time you look in the mirror, just remember that God is in the business of taking a nobody and making a somebody out of them. You are certainly qualified!
37. But what is stopping the end time harvest? It's not Satan! It's church folks who:
- a. **Thinking of himself more highly than he ought to think** - whether they are giving into fear, excusing themselves as being too busy, rule watchers or entertaining self importance.

- b. And because Jesus loving church folks are not **thinking soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**
38. So where does leave you?
- a. Are you in the wilderness and out from the view of people learning to be a nobody?
 - b. Are you a humbled nobody willing to become God's somebody?
39. Or do you still think more highly of yourself by giving into fear, trying to stay within the rules and forgetting grace, giving into the comparison trap and thinking your overqualified, using past experiences as a reason or excuse not to roll up your sleeves?
- a. Or did you forget that it requires faith, not qualifications and know how?
40. Everyday Jesus is doing something on your behalf. What are you doing for Him?
- a. Going to church is not for Him, it's for you.
 - b. Tithing is not for Him, it's for you.
 - c. Praying is not for Him, it's for you.

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