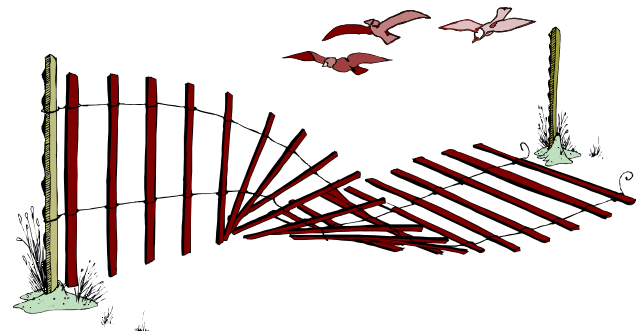


SERMON NOTES SERIES
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

**LIVING ON THE
BORDER**



DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.
SENIOR PASTOR

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

LIVING ON THE BORDER

Judges 6:1 **And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.**

1. Allow me to lay down a you a background so you can have more clarity.
 - a. The Midianites were very bitter enemies of the children of Israel.
 - b. The Midianites descended from a man called Midian, who was actually a son of Abraham from his other wife Keturah, the one who replaced Sarah when she died.
 - c. So the enemy was using someone who should have actually been part of the Abrahamic clan to attack itself.
 - d. A cancer to the inheritance.
2. Today, that would be the same as using your God given power and authority to attack yourself instead of satan.
 - a. For example, having faith, but using it in a negative way by expecting bad things to happen instead of good.

- b. That is turning faith into fear, because both are the tools that are used for expectancy.

Judges 6:2 **And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds.**

- 3. Because the children of Israel were afraid, they made themselves three places to hide:

- a. **Dens** - a channel or fissure, a narrow crack.

- 1. Today that would mean doing things in a certain way all the time because we are afraid if we might get into a bind if we change the way we know is safe or works for us, staying within our means.
- 2. Notice the dens / cracks are in the mountains, showing that they are not making their own trails but simply accepting what has been there for years.

- b. **Caves** - a hole, an underground chamber, a naturally hollowed out place.

- 1. Shows that the Israelites simply accepted what was there to live in

or live with because of the fearful pressure of what the enemy could do to them at any moment.

- 2. So instead of forging out a place, they accepted any old hole in the ground and called it their home.

- c. **Strongholds** - a fort.

- 1. Meaning that the children of Israel put their trust and confidence not in the Lord, but what the world had naturally carved out for them.

- 2. And their security and comfort was to make the best out of what they had accepted as their standard of living.

- 4. So, the children of Israel knew they were doing wrong, and instead of making things right with God, they chose to accept what the world gave them which turned out to be a little hole in the ground as their place of comfort and protection.

- a. All they had to do was get right with God, repent and obey His Word.

- b. **But because they chose to sin, God allowed His people to live defeated.**

Judges 6:3 **And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the**

**Amalekites, and the children of the east,
even they came up against them;**

5. Notice when and why the enemy chose to attack Israel!
 - a. When they had sown...no other times are recorded.
6. The attack came by three different invaders:
 - a. **The Midianites**, the very ones whom they should have had good relationship with but were now their bitter enemies symbolizing self imposed pressure.
 - b. **The Amalekites**; a race of giants, symbolizing big, unexpected attacks that are overwhelming to face.
 - c. **The Children of the East**; which would represent massive hordes of marauders who simply come in and took as much as they wanted whenever they invaded, suddenly and unexpectedly.
7. What were these enemies after?

Judges 6:4 **And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.**

8. Their increase! The results.....**and left no sustenance for Israel.**
 - a. **(NLT)** **They left the Israelites with nothing...**
 - b. **(MSG)** **They left nothing for them to live on...**
9. Three things are mentioned that got hit the most:
 - a. **Sheep** - what they depended on for daily living.
 - b. **Ox** - which would symbolize their jobs because oxen are needed to work the fields.
 - c. **Asses** - which symbolize today transportation.
10. To you and I, this translates that they got hit with unexpected financial attack either from daily living expenses (sheep), something happening, something breaking down; or at their jobs (ox) or their vehicles break down and it would cost a fortune to fix (asses).
11. Now if these Midianites, Amalekites and the children of the east were truly invading armies, why didn't they raid the villages, take the women and children as slaves and kill the men?

12. These armies only came after one thing...the **increase** that rightfully belonged to Israel.
- a. They allowed them to work, to sow, to feel that they were getting ahead just a little when suddenly, they attacked their increase.
 - b. So the things that they thought they were going to do with the extra increase they could never do because the enemy knew just when to hit them.
 - c. The results of this cycle of living...

Judges 6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the Lord.

13. The children of Israel stayed poor, lived below their inheritance and worked their backs off only so that for others to continually take from them.
14. This describes the condition of most people in the church of today:
- a. They are living in dens, walking a fine line between prosperity and poverty created by the world and are afraid to step out in faith because the world has conditioned them to believe that at any given moment, the enemy will attack and take what little you have.

- b. Some believers have been elevated to life in caves, accepting what the world offers because they are too afraid to trust God and believe their credit report more than the report of the Lord and what God can do for them.
 1. So they don't even try but talk themselves out of it because of a lack of faith in the promises of God where He said He will make a way where there is no way.
- c. And all have made their present living conditions their stronghold because they can't see themselves living any other way, so they struggle to hold on to what little they can afford instead of what God says they could have.

15. And, because the enemy knows when to attack, when you get some form of increase.
16. What sin did the children of Israel commit that allowed the door for the enemy to stay open and attack their increase even though they were God's chosen people?
- a. Let's look at verse 3.

Judges 6:3 And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

17. The children of Israel were sowing, but it is not recorded that they tithed.
- a. They sowed seeds for a harvest, but they didn't offer any harvest as a tithe.
18. Look at what God promised He would do if you tithed before you sow.

Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:11 (MSG) For my part, I will defend you against marauders, protect your wheat fields and vegetable gardens against plunderers." The Message of God-of-the-Angel-Armies.

19. The tithe was the insurance policy of protection from the unexpected attacks from the enemy.
20. Their logic was, anything above 10 % was too much to give. So, instead of paying the insurance policy, I'll just sow what I think I can afford and take my chances.
- a. But the fear of the enemy's attack has kept the children of Israel from tithing.

21. How? Because fear had proven itself to be "faithful" and consistent in its attack on the Children of Israel just like it does on the body of Christ.
- a. We know it's coming so we brace ourselves.
- b. But what fear expects, fear gets.

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

22. Just as God uses your faith to do a work in your life, satan uses your fears to do a work in your life.

Job 3:25 (NLT) What I always feared has happened to me. What I dreaded has come to be.

23. Fear is the expectancy of bad things to come just as faith is an expectancy of good things to come.

Job 3:25 (MSG) The worst of my fears has come true, what I've dreaded most has happened.

24. Fear and faith rely on who you trust the most or what voice you choose to follow.
- a. Fears hinders you from acting on the Word.

- b. Faith motivates you to act on the Word.
25. Most preachers think that church folks are in rebellion concerning the tithe. The truth is that most church folks are afraid to tithe.
- a. There are some rebels, you can usually tell who they are because they get agitated if they have to spend money on something that they think they should get for free or at a discount.
 - b. Rebels only give when they immediately get something back in return.
 - c. Rebels will argue, cuss, fuss and have an attitude especially if it involves the church, its ministries and missions or even their pastor or preacher.
 - d. Rebels will get ahead, then something will break down, affect their job or experience drains on their daily living.

26. So the questions we must ask:
- a. Do you want to crawl out of your hole of barely making it to more than enough?
 - b. Do you want to leave your daily life of hand-to-mouth, paycheck-to-paycheck existence where only your basic needs are being supplied?

- c. Do you want to move into the land of abundance like God promised you could have?
27. Then fear must be conquered!
28. In order to move out of your hole and into the land of abundance, you must first judge the flesh. Why, because the flesh wants to hoard and hold on...just in case.
- a. The flesh is influenced by past experiences not promises of better future.
 - b. So the flesh will have a strong desire to use all of the blessings selfishly.
29. So we judge the flesh with the Word and renew our mind.

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

30. The power to get wealth is not active in the lives of most believers because the presence of fear has blocked the power from being released.
31. Just as most believers are afraid to step out with the Holy Ghost and minister supernaturally to

others, most believers hardly ever acknowledge the power to be released to get wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NLT) Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich, and he does it to fulfill the covenant he made with your ancestors.

32. The expectation of another enemy attack seems to override the expectation of riches that rightly belong to us.

Deuteronomy 8:18 (MSG) Remember that God, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.

33. The flesh does not want to confirm the covenant. The flesh wants assurance in accumulation of goods and possessions.

a. Let's renew the mind.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34. If I seek the Kingdom of God first, the flesh will be taken care of automatically.

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

35. Here is why most believers find it hard to believe God. He said He will meet our needs from day to day. We want a monthly advance so we can have a fleshly assurance.

a. If we had it on a month to month advance, our flesh would have a lot of luxuries but our utilities would be cut off and rent would be always be past due.

Matthew 6:33 (MSG) Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

36. God meets your needs on a daily basis, we have trained our flesh to worry on a monthly basis.

a. In bible times, people got paid on a daily basis, today we don't.

37. Fear is gone when peace has become evident.

38. Like Israel, abundance is already ours, but we must deal with our fears and excuses, step out in faith, and command for fear to flee!
39. Then we can leave the wilderness of “just enough,” crawl out of our hole of “just barely making it” and watch God begin to meet the desires of our hearts beyond our wildest expectations!
40. The fear of the tithe must be conquered. If not, any sowing we may do is subject to attack.
41. Historically, there were two of the tribes of Israel that decided not to go into the land flowing with milk and honey because it seemed to be too much of a requirement of their part.
42. They chose to live right on the border of the promises of God instead of actually living in the promises of God.
 - a. What the world offers seems more secure.
 - b. The truth is the world has never offered you anything that didn't require some sacrifice on your part.
 - c. With God, Jesus became that sacrifice for you and the only requirement is that you believe.

43. Many church folks today are accepting and settling for far less than what God has for them by not tithing.
 - a. They are living on the border.
 44. The tithe is our test. It shows who you trust and who you don't.
 - a. It reveals your faith and exposes your fears.
 45. The tithe is a place where our flesh must come to grips our fears and our excuses in the light of God's promises.
 - a. Do we believe Him or not?
 - b. If I trust Him with my eternity, why not trust Him with my here and now?
- Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:**
46. **God is no respecter of persons**, He shows no partiality.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**
47. Stop listening to the voice of fear and start listening to the voice of God.

48. Fear says:

- a. You can't afford it.
- b. It's all you have until payday.
- c. What if it doesn't work.
- d. You tried it once.
- e. What about all your "what abouts."

Malachi 3:10 **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

49. When it comes to tithing, this is the only place in the Bible where you are literally being challenged by God to challenge Him.

Malachi 3:10 (NLT) **...Try it! Let me prove it to you!**

50. Isn't it time that you activate the power to get wealth in your life so that your quality of living can improve to something much better?

Malachi 3:10 (MSG) **...Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself**

to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.

51. Stop living on the border of prosperity and being influenced by the attacks of the enemy.

52. Tell fear that it has to leave...NOW! (in Jesus' name).

53. Elijah summed it up best...

1 Kings 18:21 **And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.**

54. Make up your mind and break the silence.

55. Silence over a matter is giving permission or being in agreement to the present circumstances without any desire for change.

1 Kings 18:21 (NLT) **Then Elijah stood in front of them and said, "How long are you going to waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!" But the people were completely silent.**

56. Either way, like it or not, someone is being followed.

1 Kings 18:21 (MSG) **Elijah challenged the people: "How long are you going to sit on the fence? If God is the real God, follow him; if it's Baal, follow him. Make up your minds!" Nobody said a word; nobody made a move.**

57. Purpose in your heart today, say no to the dens, caves and strongholds that the world has convinced you is all that you can have.

Acts 10:34-36 (MSG) ^[34] **Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! ^[35] It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. ^[36] The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.**

58. We are all His favorites...

a. It makes no difference who you are.

b. It makes no difference where you're from.

c. **If you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.**

59. Say no to fear, release the power to get wealth and watch God change your life.

60. Stop living on the border looking over and wishing you were living on the other side.