

Encountering Jesus, the Living Word of God, through Sacred Scripture

Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶ "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

The
WORD
by name
is
Jesus Christ

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Developing Prayer Habits

"And when you pray..." Matthew 6:5

The Americas Cup team from New Zealand practiced for two years, six days a week, eight hours a day, and brought sailing to a new level. People who are serious about something are always able to make room for it in their schedule.

When the disciples asked Jesus about prayer, He began by saying, "When you pray" He assumed they would have a regular time for prayer. Could He assume that about you? He also said, "When you pray, go into your room, close the door" (Matthew 6:6). Why the emphasis on privacy? Because voices, noise, music, phones, computers, TV, kids, dogs, birds - even a ticking clock- can cause you to lose your concentration. We are physical beings seeking a spiritual connection. So He counseled, "Do not bother fighting distractions because you will lose. Just find a quiet place where you can pray without interruption." But there is another reason: once you identify your 'secret place' and begin to use it regularly, a kind of aura surrounds it. Married couples often have a favorite restaurant where they go for important nights out; they love its atmosphere; its memories draw them back like a magnet. It is easy to be open and intimate there. And when you create such a meeting place with God, you will look forward to going there too. You will grow to love it and eventually it will become the most important place in your life. "When should I go there" you ask. In the morning if you are a lark; at night if you are an owl! In other words, when you can really get into it.

My Daily Prayer: Eternal God, you call me to ventures of which I cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils yet unknown, upon seas beyond my sight. Give me the faith to go out with confidence, not knowing how but trusting only that your hand is leading me and your light guiding me through Jesus Christ. Amen



Sermon Notes

"To be rather than to seem"

➤ Sin is a **lie** masqueraded as **truth**

False Beliefs are crippling and hard to dispel. John 8:32

Responsibility: Nobody forces you to believe anything. Romans 1:25

Actions: My beliefs determine the way I act. Proverbs 4:23

➤ Truth creates **peace** and **purpose** in life

Conventional Wisdom creates anxiety in life.

"We will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming." **Ephesians 4:14**

➤ Absolute truth is found in **Jesus Christ**

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." John 14:6

"On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand!"

➤ Pursue **God's Truth** above all else

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

NOW WHAT?

- I commit myself to seeking the Truth [see Proverbs 13:10]
- I commit myself to living the Truth [see Proverbs 3:13-18]
- I commit myself to share the Truth [see Proverbs 14:25]