

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
SERMON – Have you any time for God? Part 2
Topic: The Practice
Scripture Text: Mark 1:32-35
Updated 11/18/2020

Focus Passage: Mark 1:32–35 (NKJV) ³² At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him. ³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

How to Practice Quiet Time

The Practice: Spending time. The way you do so is important

1. Come prepared with the needed tools which include:

- A good study bible with notes and a concordance. I started my Quiet Times with the Charles Ryrie Study Bible. I have read through this bible and started going back through it in my Quiet Times.
- Don't be afraid to mark in your bible. It took me a long time to become comfortable making notes in my bible, highlighting passages and underlining verses or passages. I eventually stuck with underlining because highlighting will sometimes bleed through. There are special bible highlighters available.
- Bring something to record the pearls you are given during your Quiet Time. To record your prayer and praise list. Taking notes is a vital part of retaining what the Holy Spirit reveals and teaches us. The added blessing is that later in the years you can go back and review your notes and get another blessing from them.
- I began in 1995 using a notebook called "My Spiritual Notebook, by Billie Hanks Jr. This is out of print now, but it was a loose-leaf book with suggestions along the way. Since then there are a lot of Spiritual Notebooks and Journals that people use.
- I now use a Logos bible software for everything. Typing my notes so they can be read legibly.

I know this part is quite instructive, more than a sermon, but my job is not to just preach but to teach.

2. We must be self-motivated. No one can motivate you to do this. It has to come from within.
Motivation Should be by Love not by a crisis.

Lim Tianyi

Lim Tianyi brought himself out of a mediocre living from making \$350 a month to over \$60,000 in a month. Now he's a mentor to numerous business and non-profit organizations in various industries. The following quote is attributed to him. "No one can motivate you except yourself.

Related Story

A ten-year-old Jewish boy was failing math. His parents tried everything from tutors to hypnosis; but to no avail.

Finally, at the insistence of a family friend, they decided to enroll their son in a private Catholic school.

After the first day, the boy's parents were surprised when he walked in after school with a stern, focused and very determined expression on his face.

He went straight past them, right to his room and quietly closed the door. For nearly two hours he toiled away in his room - with math books strewn about his desk and the surrounding floor. He emerged long enough to eat, and after quickly cleaning his plate, went straight back to his room, closed the door and worked feverishly at his studies until bedtime.

This pattern of behavior continued until it was time for the first quarter's report card. The boy walked in with it unopened - laid it on the dinner table and went straight to his room.

Cautiously, his mother opened it and, to her amazement, she saw a large red 'A' under the subject of Math. Overjoyed, she and her husband rushed into their son's room, thrilled at his remarkable progress. "Was it the nuns that did it?" the father asked.

The boy shook his head and said "No." "Was it the one-to-one tutoring? The peer-mentoring?" "No."

"The textbooks? The teachers? The curriculum?" "No", said the son. "On that first day, when I walked in the front door and saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I KNEW they meant business!"

The more we are exposed to Jesus the more of a change should be in our lives.

There are so many reasons why we should be motivated with in by our love for God and Christ. I will only name a few which include:

1. He made us.

Psalm 100:3 (NKJV) ³ Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

2. God first loved us

Romans 5:8 (NLT) ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

3. God made the gift of eternal life available to us.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. We do not have to work for it but only accept it through His son Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

5. Knowing that it is Jesus who sits on the right hand of the Father making intercession for us should motivate us to spend time with Him.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Romans 8:27, Romans 8:34).

6. And knowing that Jesus is coming again to take us with Him should motivate us to spend time with Him.

John 14:3-4 (NKJV) ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know."

As you can imagine, there are many more reason for us to be self-motivated but I will stop here.

At this point I will ask the question again, "Do you have time for God?"

I believe that having a consistent quiet time with God is a form of worship. There are different forms of worship we can participate in.

Forms of worship:

1. **Corporate Worship** - Not forsaking the assembly
Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, ...*
2. **Family Worship** - each the commands to your children
Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ *“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
3. **Personal Worship** QT = personal form.
Having a quiet time is a private and personal form of worship. It is just between you and God. You don't have to worry how you sound, or how dressed up you are.

Start each day. Give God the best part of the day. You are fresh and starting in control of the day, if we meet Him in the morning, we will be with us through the day.

Ps 5:3 ³ *My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up. (NKJ)*

How many of us have said?

Psalms 118:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ *This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

In the evening we can thank Him for the day, it is also an acceptable time for Quiet Time

Get awake in the morning.

Have you ever been talking to that special person late at night and all of sudden you heard a deep nasal sound coming through the phone? I know you teenagers know what I am talking about my daughter has been guilty of this on more than one occasion. You don't want to fall asleep while praying or reading scripture. Prayer is a vital part of our quiet time. It is when we talk to God. That is another reason why I like the mornings.

Plan Ahead

Know where you are going to start reading ahead of time. Don't just close your eyes and pick a place hoping that is where the Lord has led you. That may happen very occasionally but God likes order.

1 Corinthians 14:40 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

God will meet you where you are.

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, NKJV*

Some suggestions include:

1. Straight through the Bible a small portion at a time
2. Alternate each month between OT & NT
3. Or a Bible reading Plan
4. I like to direct Christian men to begin in Proverbs.
5. New Christians will do well to start in the Gospel of John.

Desire content not mileage

If it is your desire to read through the Bible or even to do some in-depth Bible Study. Do that at another time or after your quiet time. If you try to do too much at quiet time you will delay having your daily quiet times until you feel you can devote more time to do it. The secret to strong spiritual growth is consistent time with the Lord.

It is better to have a **brief** (10 - 15 minute) quiet time each morning with the Lord than a **long** quiet time once a week. We need to be feed daily. Remember the parallels between our spiritual growth and our physical growth. No matter how much we eat on Monday we will still be hungry on Tuesday.

My Bible reading has been broken into three types.

1. First, I will read longer passages even a full chapter in order to get some familiarity and context.
2. Second, I will read to studying. This is more in-depth in order to learn and understand.
3. Thirdly there is my quiet time reading which consist of just 1 or 2 verses, I will meditate on those verses and then write a note in some form of a journal and that is when The Holy Spirit really speaks to me and teaches me.

Message Scripture: **Mark 1:32–35**, *Psalm 100:3*, *Romans 5:8*, *Romans 6:23*, *Ephesians 2:8–9*, *Hebrews 7:25*, *John 14:3–4*, *Hebrews 10:24–25*, *Deuteronomy 6:6–7*, *Ps 5:3*, *Psalm 118:24*, *1 Corinthians 14:40*, *2 Timothy 3:16*.

END