



Lesson 43 Draw Close to Me

03/27/2011 MEETING: PRESENT - I AM, Bob and Cindy

BT – I am here. You just need to listen to hear what I have to say. I am coming soon; sooner than you think. The signs are all around you – wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and floods, famine and pestilence. Draw near to Me. These are the birth pains. It will get much more intense. Many will die. Many will suffer. Hunger will abound. It is important that you draw close to Me everyday, every hour. Walk hand in hand with Me. Read My word. Be prepared for those I bring to you. Be an example. Let your light shine. Let your joy show; others will notice. Be kind. Be gentle. Share what you have. You are an example. That's why it is so important to live right. You can do it. Stay focused on Me and My ways. Draw close; focus on Me and My ways. I love you always until the end.

CT – Disaster; disastrous consequences for neglect. This is what you must gently teach others. If you neglect the maintenance on your car it will not operate properly. Likewise, the person who neglects their spiritual life with the Lord will experience the consequences of this neglect. And they do not realize that their spiritual life is the real, true life. It is this physical life they perceive as real. Just the opposite of what is true. Value your spirit life and its essence as your most valued item. Eternity is with your spirit life. Heard the song "Freedom and Victory are bursting forth."

Happiness is what you make it. You decide what outlook to take each day. You decide to be either an optimist or a pessimist. Teach faith and optimism. Help others to understand the power that is available to an obedient life. Teach about recharging your battery. All these things: pay attention to your spiritual life, being happy, choosing to be happy, being an optimist; these will all be valuable assets in the future, more than gold or silver; remember this, keep it in mind. Don't let the enemy have control of your emotions. Don't open the door. Discouragement is to disaster what encouragement and happiness is to life. Amen.

This is enough to absorb and concentrate on for now.

The Lord has spoken to us this week and explained that it is time to draw close to Him. This message goes along with previous messages. He has reminded us over time that He is always with us and that we are never alone. He has confirmed that he wants the best for us. And most importantly, He tells us that he wants to spend time intimately with you and me. Remember Him saying, "Intimacy cannot be maintained without spending time intimately." So when He tells us that it is important to draw close to Him, everyday and every hour; we cannot be surprised. This week He said, "Stay focused on Me and My ways." Therefore we should look carefully at the points He has brought to our attention.

Disastrous consequences for neglect

This week the Lord compared neglecting your spirit life to neglecting the maintenance on your car. This reminded me of my youth. My father had passed away before I began driving and my mother didn't drive. I had no knowledge of automobiles or their operation and I didn't have anyone to really teach me about them. Therefore when I was just starting to drive I didn't realize that automobiles had fluid levels you are supposed to keep track of. I can't even begin to tell you how long I drove my first car before

someone asked me if I had checked the transmission fluid. I was like “What’s that.” (I had probably been driving that car for over a year before I figured this out) The transmission in my car stopped working correctly because of this neglect. You see an automobile will not run smooth and efficiently without proper maintenance; likewise your spiritual life will not operate smoothly if you neglect it.

The definition of neglect is to give little attention or respect to, to disregard; to leave undone or unattended especially through carelessness. This idea of neglect was interesting to me because you see the Lord has told us on multiple occasions that He is always with us. He has told us this many times reinforcing the fact that we are never alone. There are also verses in the Bible which reaffirm this. For example **Deuteronomy 31:6** “*Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.*” And of course, Jesus spoke in **Matt 28:20** “*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Thus when neglect occurs it is we humans who are not paying attention to or disregarding the Lord. Neglect never occurs on His part. In fact these verses below indicate just how much He is aware of us.

Psalm 139:1-16

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me, such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high and I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You.

For You formed my inward part; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written. The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

If neglect occurs it is not the Lord neglecting us but us neglecting The Lord. And He has told us there are consequences for this neglect. The Lord said, **the person who neglects their spiritual life with the Lord will experience the consequences of this neglect. And they do not realize that their spiritual life is the real, true life. It is this physical life they perceive as real; just the opposite of what is true. Value your spirit life and its essence as your most valued item.** Neglect by the way seems the exact opposite of intimacy to me. Consequently, if we apply the lessons the Lord has previously taught us regarding intimacy: spend time reading your Bible, spend time in prayer, and spend time in silence before the Lord listening for His still small voice to speak to you; if you follow these instructions you will be on the road to maintaining your relationship with the Lord. He said, **Walk hand in hand with Me. Read My word. I am here. You just need to listen to hear what I have to say.**

Proverbs 3:6 *In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Happiness is what you make it

Proverbs 17:22 *A merry heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.*

The Lord also brought up our attitude and outlook. He said: **Happiness is what you make it. You decide what outlook to take each day.** He explained that this will be a valuable asset in the future and it is something we are to teach to others. I have included a few verses below which I believe inspire and produce a positive attitude. These include:

1 Peter 3: 1 *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*

Philippians 4:6-7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Matthew 19:26 *“...with God all things are possible.”*

Psalms 27:1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

Psalms 28:6-7 *Blessed be the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Psalms 146:5-7 *Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever; who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, the Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.*

Don't let the enemy have control of your emotions

Christ is our pattern, **1 Timothy 1:16** *For this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. He is the example we are to follow and if we follow His example we will not be opening doors to the enemy. This is because Christ lived completely and perfectly in the will of God.*

We talked in recent lessons about lawlessness and sin and how through disobedience we are granting the enemy permission (legally) to come in and operate in our lives. In the book of **Zechariah 3:1** we can see how the enemy opposes us legally. It states: *Then he showed me*

Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. Here you can see Satan acting as the prosecutor or pursuing formal charges against the defendant. It demonstrates the legality of actions

*We've learned we are battling the enemy. **Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. We've learned he tries many different ways to get a hold of us. This week the Lord warned us in our 3/27 meeting not to allow the enemy to have control of our emotions. He also talked to us about choosing to be happy.*

I believe emotions and happiness are connected. The Lord just stressed to us the importance of our attitude (happiness) in the words we received this week. He also said that we can be controlled or a part of us can be controlled by the enemy. He was talking about our emotions. Therefore, we could say that a poor attitude and/or a poor emotional state could lead to opening doors to the enemy. This is another reason why our happiness is so important. **Don't open the door. Discouragement is to disaster what encouragement and happiness is to life.** There you have it the Lord made a connection between opening doors and discouragement. **All these things: pay attention to your spiritual life, being happy, choosing to be happy, being an optimist; these will all be valuable assets in the future, more than gold or silver; remember this, keep it in mind.** The Lord said, **Happiness is what you make it. You decide what outlook to take each day. You decide to be either an optimist or a pessimist.**

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