

- Digging Deeper -

“How to Make Bible Reflections Energizing”

For personal or small group study

Week of March 22, 2009

- ³ If only I knew where to find God,
I would go to his court.
- ⁴ I would lay out my case
and present my arguments.
- ⁵ Then I would listen to his reply
and understand what he says to me.
- ⁶ Would he use his great power to argue with me?
No, he would give me a fair hearing.
- ⁷ Honest people can reason with him,
so I would be forever acquitted by my judge.
- ⁸ I go east, but he is not there.
I go west, but I cannot find him.
- ⁹ I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden.
I look to the south, but he is concealed.
- ¹⁰ “But he knows where I am going.
And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold.
- ¹¹ For I have stayed on God’s paths;
I have followed his ways and not turned aside.
- ¹² I have not departed from his commands,
but have treasured his words more than daily food.
- ¹³ But once he has made his decision, who can change his mind?
Whatever he wants to do, he does.
- ¹⁴ So he will do to me whatever he has planned.
He controls my destiny.
- ¹⁵ No wonder I am so terrified in his presence.
When I think of it, terror grips me.

- God has good plans for us, even when we can’t see Him or His plans.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT) “The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT) For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

2 Timothy 2:1 (NIV) You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**What do you sense God was saying to you personally
as you reflected on this passage?**

Did you have an “aha” moment from the sermon or sermon notes? If so, what was it and how has it impacted you?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. “*Neglecting devotions will cause you more problems, more quickly, than just about anything you can name.*” How and why do you agree or disagree with this quote by author Wayne Cordeiro, “*The Divine Mentor*”.
2. In what specific ways does the Word of God keep wisdom fresh ... keep you prepared ... keep you fruitful ... help you make wise decisions? [Psalm 34:8; Proverbs 9:10; Mark 4:14-20; Joshua 1:8; John 10: 4-5; 15:1-5, 7; Matthew 24:24; James 1:5-6]
3. Read Luke 10:38-42 where Jesus tells the story of protecting life’s root systems. What is the one thing that Jesus says is essential? How are we like both Mary and Martha? What is the real choice that we all must make? What are the rewards and potential consequences of our choices?
4. We are responsible for our own spiritual health and nourishment. Only you can keep yourself spiritually healthy by feeding yourself. No one can do it by proxy.

The basic ingredients for reflecting on God’s Word are:

- **Transport** yourself into the setting of the scripture you are reading. Notice the characters and the social, emotional climate of the day. Look for why the passage might have been written for us today.
- **Personalize** it by asking, “What does it actually say?”
- **Listen intuitively** with your spirit, not just your head, to what the scripture is really saying. Ask yourself questions like, “*What does this show me about myself ...about God?*”
- **Apply** what you have discovered to your daily life. This is done by asking, “*How does this affect me today...tomorrow? What adjustments do I need to make?*”

As a group, or as an individual, take time to put this into practice. Go through this process by choosing a passage of your choice or by reflecting on the following scripture passage: Exodus 14:10-16.

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

Pastor Bob Wine

March 22, 2009

HOW TO MAKE BIBLE REFLECTION ENERGIZING

"Let's put it into practice"

Job 23:3-15

Today we are going to take time to reflect, or read between the lines, and allow the Holy Spirit to bring His thoughts to us as we look at scripture.

Try hard to take the initiative to engage in the process. It will be fun!

There are many models for Biblical reflection: Today we look at just this one.

BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR REFLECTING

1. **Transport yourself into the setting**

- Try to imagine the social and emotional environment and why the passage may have been written for us. Notice who the characters are and the feelings of the speaker or listener.

2. **Personalize.** What does it actually say?

3. **Listen intuitively**

- Ask yourself, "What do I intuitively sense it is saying to me about myself (or others) ... and about God?"
- Journaling helps you remember.

4. How can I **apply** or relate this to my daily life?

IT IS TIME TO PUT THIS INTO PRACTICE

- First, we must look at some background [the setting].

Job 19:6 "... (I) **know** that God has wronged me and drawn his net around me."

Job 19:25-27 (NLT) "... I **know** that my **Redeemer lives**, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed ... I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!"

- Job is speaking as we break into this discussion in Job 23:3-15 NLT