



in FOCUS

“FOCUS ON BIBLE MEDITATION, PART 1”

For the week of January 10, 2010

Pastor Michael Lee

Mark 4:1-20; Psalm 10:1-5 (ESV)

CENTRAL TRUTH

God’s Word must be heard, welcomed, and allowed to grow in my life in order for me to mature as a follower of Jesus.

MY STORY

1. What do you think motivates people to change? What motivates YOU to change? Share an example of a time when you finally made an important change, which you had been putting off for some time.
2. This past Sunday, pastor Michael talked about the importance of the word of God for the spiritual growth and maturity of a believer. How important would you say that the word of God is in your life? More specifically, how much weight or importance does the word of God bear when making decisions?
 - Irrelevant thus far
 - somewhat important but it varies
 - very important and I always try my best to filter my thoughts and priorities through the word of God

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the passage from Mark 4, Jesus does not give specific examples of the fruit one is expected to bear (V.20). However, we can find examples of the spiritual fruit in Galatians 5:22-23. Please write them down and share with the group.
2. During the message, Pastor Michael shared how our faith journey should not be stagnant. He gave an example of a stock market graph that shows an overall upward movement despite the many ups and downs time to time. Has that been the case for you? If no, what has your faith journey been like? If yes, share the most recent “mountain top experience” with the group.
3. In verse 15 of the Mark passage, Jesus describes how Satan takes away the Word of God from its hearers even before the word gets planted in one’s life. In what ways have you experienced Satan “taking away the Word” in your life? What are the most common distractions in your walk with God—especially engaging with the Word of God?

4. In verses 16-17 of our passage, we learn that hardships can pose a serious hindrance to one's spiritual fruitfulness. Can you think of time from your past when a hardship caused you to drift away from God? If yes, would you share it with the group?

5. During the message, Pastor Michael shared how easy it is for us to become complacent in our walk with God due to prosperity (vs. 18-19). Why do you think prosperity often causes people to drift away from God?

6. Read Psalm 10 and pay close attention to verses 2-5. What are some traits or words used to describe the wicked in this passage? Is there anything that you find strange? Do you find certain patterns in your life that coincide with those of the wicked?

• Verse 2: _____

• Verse 3: _____

• Verse 4: _____

• Verse 5: _____

7. Based on our study this week, it is imperative that we make room for God and His words in our lives if we want to experience genuine transformation and spiritual growth. What are some practical ways that you can make room for God and studying of the word of God? What are some ways that you can continue to keep God's word in front of you throughout the day?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Please share your responses with the group and spend the next 5-10 minutes brainstorming your strategy to counterattack Satan's strategy to distract and derail you from the path of continued growth through meditation upon God's words.

2. Is there anything from this week's study that you'd like prayer for? Do you have any other prayer requests you would like to share with your group?

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