

Not A Hobby

Lesson 3

INTRODUCTION:

- DISCUSS: What is the most difficult situation you have ever had to endure?
 - *Allow the class to share some stories...*
 - Ask the follow-up question (not for discussion): At the time you went through those circumstances, did you allow them to push you closer to God or further away?
- SHARE: Do you (not your class) have a personal story you can share when the circumstances of life pushed you deeper into God's Word and your relationship with Him?
- We have spent two weeks discussing the proper posture for approaching the Bible. Today we want to consider two more attitudes we should possess.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Approach God's Word **Desperately**
 - a. Read Jeremiah 15:16.
 - b. When we read the Bible, we never get the impression that it's meant to be a mere hobby in our lives. Like Jeremiah said, it's meant to be our food.
 - c. Read Matthew 4:4 and cross reference it with Deuteronomy 8:3. Do you remember Jesus's words when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness?
 - d. Q: Have you ever ruined your appetite for an epic dinner by snacking all day? It's terrible! You come to dinner wishing you could work up an appetite, but it's too late. The steak is on the table and you are not even hungry.
 - e. This is often how we treat God's Word.
 - i. We spend our days and our hours nibbling at the table of the world, and it leaves us with no appetite left over for the good things of God.
 - ii. If we are snacking on cheese puffs, we shouldn't be surprised when we don't have enough room for steak.
 - f. Read Deuteronomy 32:47. These are Moses's words to Israel shortly before his death. "These are not just idle words for you – they are your life."
 - g. Our souls will wither and die without the Bible. We should approach it desperately.
2. Approach God's Word **Expectantly**
 - a. When we come to our Bibles, we should come with anticipation. Among its pages we will discover everything we need, and more than we could expect.
 - b. God's Word has the power to save the lost. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18. 20-25.
 - i. The message of God's Word is the message of the Gospel.
 - ii. The Gospel is not a rough draft, or a weak crutch, or an irrelevant writing. It is God's explosive power to save anyone who trusts in Christ alone.
 - c. God's Word has the power to secure & sanctify the saved. Read Romans 15:4.

- i. Notice the word “whatsoever” in this verse. In our modern-day language, we would use the word “everything.”
 - ii. Paul is declaring that the entirety of the Scriptures, including the Old Testament, is for you – to instruct, to encourage, to help you endure, and to fortify your heart with hope.
- d. The Bible defies human expectations. It has a way of challenging our assumptions and shattering our classifications. It can bear the weight of our expectations. It is unlike anything else you own.
- e. ILL: Martin Luther was the father of the Protestant Reformation. As he reflected on the miracle that had taken place at this time listen to what he wrote:
 - i. *“I opposed indulgences and all the papists, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept...the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.”*
 - ii. Do you believe the Word of God to do something revolutionary in your life?

APPLICATION:

1. Ask yourself the following questions on a regular basis. You may want to give them a card to write these on and encourage them to keep them in the front of their Bible. Or, they can write these questions in the front cover of their Bible as a reminder:
 - a. Do I approach the Bible more like it’s a snack or like it’s a feast?
 - b. Is it more accurate to say I’m willing to hear from God or that I’m desperate to hear from Him?
 - c. Am I merely interested in the Scriptures or am I also internalizing them?
 - d. Do I approach God’s Word expecting it to change me, or do I approach it as a task that simply needs to be completed?
 - e. Further discussion (if time): How can we cultivate this attitude toward God’s Word?
2. We are a couple of weeks away from a New Year with new possibilities and new opportunities for your life. Are you desperate for God to do something significant in your life and through it? It starts in His Word. What do you need to do to begin a daily meaningful time in the Bible?