



Christian Ambassadors, Inc.

My Brother's Keeper

Volume 24, Number 3, Third Quarter, 2019

GROWING on the WORD

A Scripture Study

The Word of God is the source of light, truth and power, for those who seek its meaning and apply it to their life. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, and we seek to follow him.

John 8:12 (NIV) – “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*”

John 12:46 (NIV) – “*...No one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*”

Only One Thing is Needed

By: Sharon K. Griffiee

To begin this lesson, I would like to pick up where we left off in the June “Spiritual Growth Lesson”, entitled *Choosing the Best*.

As you recall, Jesus and His disciples had stopped to visit in the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). While Jesus was teaching the Word to the intimate group of guests who had gathered, Martha was distracted by the meal preparations and all the work involved in planning an elaborate meal. She rushed and fussed, but Jesus had not put that expectation on Martha. Martha had put that

expectation on herself. What she didn't understand is that Jesus was not there to be entertained with fancy food dishes. A simple meal would have been sufficient. Since Jesus wasn't there to simply socialize, what brought Jesus there on that particular day?

Jesus was there for one purpose, to express words of the most solemn nature with His close friends. Time was running out and the impact of His words needed to penetrate their very souls. The cross was looming before Him and His death was soon approaching. Though Jesus lived in a physical body, He needed far more than physical food. He needed their attention to speak forth the truth which was revealed to Him by His Father in heaven. In His humanness, Jesus needed a quiet place, a calm retreat to spend with these dear friends. Perhaps He needed to get away from the demanding crowds, to help relieve the inner *tension* of His heart, as He sought to carry out the will of His Father in heaven. Jesus was soon to experience great agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Scripture records that His sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood (Luke 22:44).

Martha's sister, Mary, understood why Jesus was there on that solemn day. He was there to personally connect them to the *eternal spiritual nourishment* from heaven. There was no way Mary was going to let this unique opportunity pass her by, so she eagerly chose to sit at the feet of Jesus. She longed to hear and to receive every word He spoke.

However, while Jesus was teaching about life in the Kingdom of God, Martha's stewing reached the boiling point, so she abruptly went to Jesus and asked Him;

Luke 10:40-42 (NIV) – “*Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!*” “*Martha, Martha,*” the Lord answered, “*you are worried and upset about many things, but **only one thing is needed**. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*”

Only One Thing is Needed

Mary sought that “good part” that *would not be taken away from her*. Mary saw through faith, that to sit at the feet of Jesus is to choose what is needful, that one thing which will profit our souls throughout eternity. While the world vies for our very souls, Jesus asks,

Matthew 16:26 (NKJV) – “*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*”

Think about this question. Would Christ have given up His divine privileges (Philippians 2:7-8), humbling Himself to come down to earth to live in a physical body – laboring night and day, experiencing the agonies of death on a cross, for a matter of *little* importance? I think not!

But, too many people, by their own actions, devote their whole lives to earthly concerns, until such time as they are approaching death, then they behave differently, or die in fear of the unknown. Young people might think they have plenty of time to enjoy worldly pleasures, before they consider seeking the heavenly treasures of God. But they are only deceiving themselves. Scripture bears this out. At any age, those who neglect God and their own souls, are spoken of in scripture as fools.

Proverbs 1:7 (KJV) – “*The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

Fear of the Lord is the beginning

The word “*beginning*” is translated from the Hebrew word *resit*, which means “*the start*”. No one can gain knowledge of the Lord and spiritual matters concerning his soul, if he begins at the wrong point; *refusing to fear the Lord*. We are not talking about “shaking in your boots” type of fear. No, the wrong point is *refusing* to reverence God by sitting under His counsel.

Case in point; years ago, I remember encouraging an inmate to diligently study the scriptures so that he might gain spiritual knowledge of *Who God Is*, and to learn why we are so valuable to Him. His response was one of outright refusal. He said,

“I really don't need to study all those scriptures, because I'm not planning to be a preacher”.

His answer was problematic. Why? He did not find it *needful* to personally sit at the feet of Jesus; that was the job of the preachers.

Proverbs 1:7b (KJV) – “*But fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”

It is very foolish, indeed, to forsake the wisdom and instruction of God, especially since the scriptures reveal to us that it is God's wisdom that will keep and uphold us.

Proverbs 4:4-8 (NIV) – “*...Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will*

exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you."

Verse seven, in the King James Bible, says that wisdom is the *principle* thing. It is *supreme*; therefore, it is well worth all the effort involved in acquiring it. If our desire is to safeguard our souls, now and throughout eternity, we must press into the things of God, even resisting our own laziness to study the scriptures, which God has amply provided for our benefit.

On the other hand, if we are dragging our feet and making excuses, our mind is still on the world and not on Jesus. Beware, the world is filled with diversions and wickedness that seeks to pull us away from the counsels and blessings God has provided for us.

Once again, the "*starting*" point, brothers and sisters, in our relationship with the Lord, begins with a *readiness* to sit at the feet of Jesus, as Mary did. We must eagerly seek and inquire and highly value the counsel of the Lord, so that we may draw His counsel into our daily life. When we go to Jesus with this attitude, we are revering, trusting, worshiping, obeying and serving Him.

The care of our souls is needful!

Because our *souls* are precious to God, we must be convinced to go immediately to the throne of Grace, to receive wisdom and instruction on how to successfully overcome life's daily challenges. May we enthusiastically accept Jesus' gracious invitation.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV) – "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



Sharing the Good News

"We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf; be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

II Corinthians 5:20-21

**From: Marlowe B.
San Quentin Prison, San Quentin, California**

Hi Sister Sharon,

I hope when this letter reaches you, that it will find you continually in good spirit and health.

Once again, I want to thank you and the Christian Ambassadors, Inc. for your continued Spiritual Growth Lessons. This latest "Spiritual Growth Lesson" titled, "*Choosing the Best*", I went over it several times and found that it hit home on a few points in my life.

Lesson quote; "*How have the voices of the world tried to crowd out the voice of the Lord in your life?*" Many times, I'm afraid. And also, like Mary, I myself would like to sit in the company of Jesus. But I did take in the complete Lesson and like "all" enjoyed and praised them.

So, until next time, take care and may God forever bless Christian Ambassadors.

Sincerely, Marlowe B.

**From: Dennis B.
Former inmate, Spokane, Washington**

Dear Christian Ambassadors,

To all my dear friends at Christian Ambassadors. Hello everyone.

Please keep me on your mailing list. I really enjoy hearing from all of you. You are in my prayers daily. Thank you for the [My Brother's Keeper] newsletters and Bible Study Lessons.

Also, please keep me in your prayers. I pulled a joint ligament on my right hip and they will be doing surgery.

Your brother in Christ Jesus, Dennis

**From: James T.
MacDougall Correctional, Suffield, Connecticut**

Dear Christian Ambassadors,

Praise the Lord, Christian Ambassadors Family. I thank God for life and having it more abundantly in Christ Jesus.

I'm praying for the restoration of families throughout this facility (MacDougall), as well as our Nation, every prison, jail, mental institution, homeless person, and group home.

Not only our blood relatives, but through Christ who gave His blood for our sins to bridge the gap for restoration.

God Bless, James

**From: Gregory J.
Franklin Correctional, Malone, New York**

Dear Sister Griffie,

I pray that this letter finds you and your ministry in the best of health, as well as good spirits.

As for myself, I'm feeling blessed because the Spirit of the Lord is always upon me and watching over me daily. Though I've been in prison for over 25 years, I know the gates will open for me real soon. I know that God is going to use me to do His will and spread His love throughout this world and be a blessing to many people. So, being in prison for so long was just preparing me for the big task that lays ahead.

I want all my brothers and sisters throughout the prison system to know that God loves us so much, and no matter what we go through, always give God thanks; because He's preparing us all for His will. Hang in there and never give up. Always look to the Lord in all things.

I want to thank you and your ministry for all the love and support I have received from you for the

past seventeen plus years. You all helped me through a lot, and I know that God used your ministry to help carry me through. God Bless you all.

Your brother in Christ, Gregory

**From: Simon M.
Donovan Prison, San Diego, California**

Dear respectable Sharon,

I hope and pray you are doing good. Amen.

First, thank you so very much for writing and mailing me powerful sermons [Lessons]. I appreciate that.

I am writing to request that you please pray for me, so I can understand and pass my final GED exam, which is Math. I am studying hard to pass the Math exam, but your prayers will make the big difference. As soon as I pass the last exam then this prison will take six months off from my sentence. Then I will be able to go home early and help my older mom in many ways.

I am praying for you and your ministry. Thank you and may God richly bless you.

Love through Jesus Christ, Simon

**From: Dusty B.
Dade Correctional, Florida City, Florida**

Dear Sharon and Alan,

Shalom to you both. This is an update of my address for your mailing list, address is below.

I thank you's for your spiritual materials and your services you both selflessly have committed to in the name of (Yeshua) – Jesus!

May Yahweh bless you both in His grace, love, and prosperity! You both are in my prayers!

In Yeshua our Messiah, Dusty



Full of Empty

By: Merissa Lee Kelley, July 18, 2006

This world is in a deceptive state, so completely unaware
Mindless pursuits ... 'round and 'round ... running here and there
Desperate to fill the void inside with anything at all
Full of empty ... with too much pride to see the coming fall

Always searching for another thrill to feed the endless quest
For status and title or financial gain ... no time to stop and rest
Full of empty ... and yet not knowing ... because of empty lies
A delicate web that sparkles and spins to captivate the eyes

"Seize the moment!" ... "Live for today!" ... these mottos aren't sufficient
To carry you through eternity's door ... they are really quite deficient
Time is slipping away so fast ... and the world still runs its race
Never knowing each passing moment is granted by God's grace

Empty spaces disguised so well ... but Someone sees right through
And looks beyond the walls constructed to obscure a closer view
Willing to fill an empty heart with joy beyond compare
Willing to lift the heavy load that you weren't meant to bear

Full of empty ... with the answer close ... for mercy waits above
Ready to run and fill the gap with everlasting love
The emptiness is swept away ... for a "trade" has taken place
From constant stress to precious peace in the Savior's sweet embrace

Full of empty? Look to Jesus ... for He's the Bread of Life
The Lamb of God can calm the storm that tries to bring your strife
Empty cup? Go to the well ... that never will run dry
Broken wings? He'll lift you up and give you strength to fly

Darkened skies? The Morning Star will gently shine His light
Wrong decisions? The Living Word will help you make things right
The Lord is your Shepherd ... you shall not want ... so lift your voice in praise
For the empty tomb that fills your heart with hope for each new day

*I Hear the Voice of GOD*December 4th, 2002

By: Larry A. Thompson, Buena Vista CF, Buena Vista, CO

I hear the voice of GOD when I allow myself to sit silently and listen to sounds of HIS creations around me.

To be perfectly honest, the sound of silence is the most beautiful sound of all; because in the vastness of silence one is able to hear the sound of their own heartbeat; the rhythm of their breathing; the song of the wind swirling around them; the majestic voice of GOD.

I hear the voice of GOD when I pay attention to the cries of a newborn baby; when I pay heed to the lessons that a child can teach me through the wonder of their innocence; when I see and fulfill a need of my neighbor before he ever asks for my help or prayers. I hear the voice of GOD; that "still small voice" which speaks to my Spirit and comforts my soul in times of tribulation.

I hear the voice of GOD when I hear the voices of my brothers speaking peaceably, one to another; when I hear the songs of praise flowing forth from the hungry hearts of true believers; when I hear a new born child of GOD confess that they know, they believe, and they accept that JESUS CHRIST IS the WORD, and IS the SAVIOR of their soul.

I hear the voice of GOD when I hear the raindrops of righteousness strike me upon the cheek while I cry tears of joy as HE bathes me in His Precious, Precious Blood. I hear the voice of GOD when I stop listening to the wants of my flesh, and fully appreciate that HE fulfills all of my needs.

I hear the voice of GOD when I allow myself to sit silently and listen to the sounds of HIS wonderful creations all around me; and, I'm more than thankful for this gift; I'm indeed Blessed, that, I Hear the Voice of GOD.

Please Note

Sharon and I have been blessed immensely over the years; sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian Ambassadors, Inc. We will continue bringing "His Word" to you, but to simplify our lives for the years ahead, we are planning to dissolve the incorporated entity of CA by the end of the year. We will continue the ministry to you as a personal, self-funded response to the Lord's call on our lives. This should have little or no impact on you, other than addressing any mail to Sharon or Alan Griffiee (next year) instead of to Christian Ambassadors. We will keep the existing Post Office Box open.

As a tax-exempt organization, any resources in Christian Ambassadors' name when it is dissolved will be transferred to another tax-exempt organization. No new financial contributions should be made. However, we do want to continue receiving your poems, articles and testimonies to share with others.

We love all of you very much, Alan and Sharon Griffiee

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Sharon K. Griffiee, Editor

Alan W. Griffiee, Production

Vision Statement – Christian Ambassadors exists to bring the ministry of Jesus Christ into the lives of people; demonstrating how the gospel teachings can help a person live a more abundant life, filled with joy, hope, and purpose.

Inspirational articles, testimonies, and poems, especially from current or former prison inmates, are invited and will be prayerfully considered for publication. **Please request a copy of the publication guidelines.**

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