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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, February 6, 2019 - Biblical Meditation

FEBRUARY 06TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, February 6, 2019 - Biblical Meditation

Joshua 1:1-9

WEDNESDAY

06

If you're facing a challenging situation, it may be tempting to immediately consult friends, professionals, or the latest book or article relating to the subject. Although none of these choices are bad in themselves, there is a greater source for guidance and assurance than any of these, and that's God's Word.

When Joshua took over the leadership of Israel after Moses' death, he didn't form a committee or read up on current leadership strategies. Instead, he relied on the instructions and assurances God gave him: "Be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left" (Josh. 1:7).

Implicit in this command is the obvious truth that we must read the Bible if we want to know what God would have us do. Then we must be careful to obey whatever it says without trying to alter it, soften it, or make excuses for partial obedience.

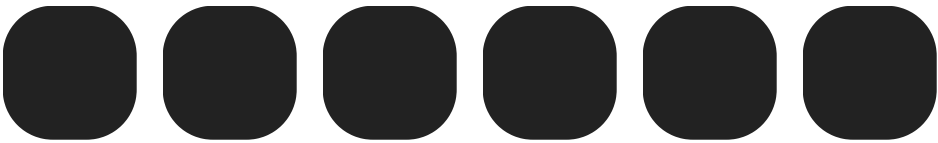
The Lord also told Joshua not to let God's Word depart from his mouth but to "meditate on it day and night" (Josh. 1:8). Since our minds are easily distracted and often forgetful, we need more than a quick and perfunctory reading of Scripture. The best approach is to ask God to help us understand what He's saying in His Word and then take time to think about it.

Biblical meditation isn't an emptying of our mind but rather a filling of it with God's Word. As we reflect upon scriptural truths, we gain a greater understanding of our Father's ways and desires so we'll know how to proceed according to His will.

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Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - A Father's Influence

FEBRUARY 05TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - A Father's Influence

TUESDAY

Have you ever wondered why a priority of Elijah's ministry in the last days involves restoring the relationship between fathers and children (Mal. 4:6)? Perhaps it's because the father has a powerful role, both in the development of emotional health in his offspring and in the shaping of their perceptions about God. By his example, a dad can either draw his children to God or push them away. Sometimes the easiest way to understand this is to look at negative paternal examples:

- *The angry, unpredictable father instills fear in his children and conveys to them that God is a tyrant who lashes out unexpectedly.*
- *A critical, demanding dad makes his kids feel inadequate. They see God as a taskmaster who's never pleased.*
- *The uninvolved or absent father sends the message that his children are unimportant, and both he and God are too busy for them.*
- *An arrogant dad's tough, uncaring nature leads his children to feel unloved and conclude that the Lord doesn't love them either.*
- *A fault-finding or abusive father communicates that his child is worthless and God is full of condemnation.*

But a man with Christlike character provides children with a healthy connection, not only to their earthly dad but also to their heavenly Father.

Think about how your earthly father helped to shape your perception of God. The Bible will reveal whether your understanding of the Lord is rooted in truth or error. If your own father distorted your view of God, know that God is the perfect Father—and ask Him to help you see that truth.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, February 4, 2019 - Wounded Parents, Wounded Children

FEBRUARY 04TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Monday, February 4, 2019 - Wounded Parents, Wounded Children

Jeremiah 32:17-19

MONDAY

04

So often when we deal with difficult people, it's easy to form judgments about them based on their behavior or attitudes. But have you ever stopped to wonder what has made that person so disagreeable or foolish? When the Bible says God "repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children" (Jer. 32:18), it is speaking about generational cycles of sin. Unless someone in the family line makes a deliberate choice to change, sinful and dysfunctional behavior can be passed from parent to child for many generations.

This is really just a confirmation of the principle of sowing and reaping. We pass down standards for conduct and character traits that we received from our parents. If we are unwilling to change our sinful habits and attitudes, they will very likely find their way into our children's lives.

What is true for sin is also true for wounds. When a child is emotionally bruised in the home, his behavior and character may be negatively affected. With this in mind, think about a difficult person you know. What hurts do you think shaped his or her life? A heart of compassion

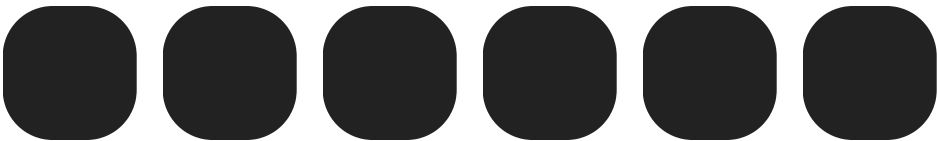
originates from a willingness to empathize with those who have been wounded. This doesn't excuse someone's sin, but it does aid in opening our heart toward the individual.

What about you? Have childhood wounds contributed to who you are today? How have they affected your life? If you haven't dealt with them, you'll probably pass similar hurts down to your children. But with God's help, you can break this cycle and begin one that will benefit future generations.

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Daily Devotional - Friday, February 1, 2019 - Accountable to God

FEBRUARY 01ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Matthew 25:14-30

Are you living as if what you do today will affect you in eternity? After “walking the aisle” and “saying the prayer,” some Christians consider that moment of salvation the beginning and end of the matter. They assume, *Since my eternal destination is secure, I can simply relax and wait for heaven.*

However, that is not what today’s parable teaches. Yes, heaven is secure for those who have truly repented and believe in Christ’s substitutionary death for their sins. But the way we live matters. When Jesus returns, we’ll have to give an account of what we have done with whatever He has entrusted to us.

In my youth I was told that one day, as I stood before Christ, my life would be replayed on a big screen for everyone to see all my sins. That really scared me—but now I know it’s completely unbiblical. For those who belong to Christ, the “certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us” has been nailed to the cross, and all our transgressions are forgiven (Col. 2:13-14). They will never again be dredged up, because God will remember them no more (Heb. 10:17).

What’s at stake is not salvation but rewards. And it won’t be a judgment of comparison with others. As in the parable, God entrusts each of us with talents according to our individual abilities. Everything we have is a gift from Him—time, treasure, skills, spiritual gifts, work, relationships, and His Word. Are you investing these in a way that will result in commendation from Christ when you stand before Him?

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 31, 2019 - God's Loving Desire

JANUARY 31ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Thursday, January 31, 2019 - God's Loving Desire

Ephesians 2:1-10

THURSDAY

31

Whether we realize it or not, our thoughts are usually centered on what *we* want—but have you ever considered what *God* desires? Why did He create us, and what is His goal for us? The answer is found in 2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord ... is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” But why does God want mankind saved?

Because He loves us (Eph. 2:4). His love isn’t based on any worthiness in us but on His nature. As 1 John 4:16 says, “God is love,” and His attributes never change.

Because of His grace (Eph. 2:5). We can’t do anything to earn salvation, because it’s obtained only through God’s grace. And throughout our time on earth and into eternity, the lives of God’s children should exhibit evidence of His grace (Eph. 2:7).

For His glory (Eph. 1:5-6). God’s glory is displayed as He saves sinners and changes them into saints. Then as we each live obediently before Him, others will see our good works and glorify the God who transformed us.

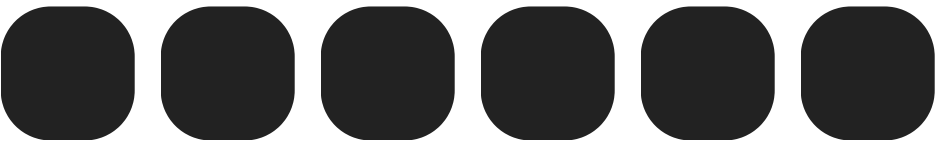
Sometimes we’re shortsighted and think we’re the center of salvation, but it’s really all about our amazing God, who sent His Son to rescue us from sin, death, and eternal punishment. Jesus

died and suffered the chastisement we deserved, and He offers us forgiveness and reconciliation with the Father. And all we have to do is believe and receive Christ’s payment for our sins. What a gracious God we have, who wants us to be with Him forever so He may continue to shower His kindness upon us.

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