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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 19, 2019 - Sharing the Good News

JUNE 19TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 19, 2019 - Sharing the Good News

Romans 10:8-17

Can you imagine filling a ship with precious cargo and launching it into the sea, only to watch it repeatedly dock without offloading anything? I imagine silent Christians are much like this ship. God has personally blessed believers with salvation and eternal life and entrusted to them the message of the gospel, yet too few of His children are willing to share with others the good news of salvation in Christ.

What causes us to stay silent? We know that Jesus has commanded us to go and make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). Furthermore, He has assured us that we will be empowered by His authority and presence with us. God is offering the invitation of salvation to “whoever will call on the name of the Lord.” He has even made it clear that our communicating the good news is the means by which people will come to saving faith (Rom. 10:13-14).

Sometimes Christians who don’t share their faith defend that choice by saying, “My faith is private. It’s between me and my God.” But that is not the model we see in Scripture. Genuine faith is confessed with the mouth and shared with the world.

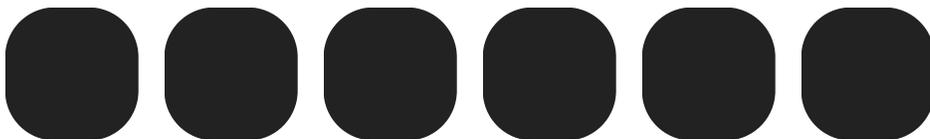
Every believer has been entrusted with the good news of salvation through Christ. It is unquestionably the single most important piece of information we have, because it offers the

only door to heaven. In John 14:6, Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” We have to courageously step forward in faith, be willing to set aside worldly concerns, obey God, and tell someone about Jesus.

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Daily Devotional - Dying to Serve: A Parable

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[Daily Devotional - Dying to Serve: A Parable](#)

John 12:23-26

Imagine two grains of wheat lying on the floor of a warm and cozy barn. One day, the farmer comes in and tells them, “I want to take you out of this comfortable barn and plant you in the

earth. I'm going to place you in the cold ground and cover you with soil. It will be dark, and you will die. But I promise that you will multiply and become very fruitful."

The first grain of wheat turns down the suggestion. "No way!" he says. "Count me out. I like my comfort, and I don't want to die." But the second one, after carefully considering the pain and discomfort of dying, decides the promise of a future harvest is worth the sacrifice. So the farmer takes him outside and plants him in the ground, while allowing the first grain of wheat to remain inside the barn.

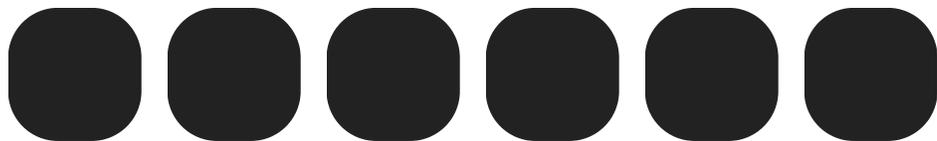
A few days later, a small green sprout begins to appear over where the seed has been planted. Then it grows and becomes a tall stalk of wheat that produces one hundred more grains. For the next 40 years, the farmer plants all the seeds that originated from that first grain of wheat, and year after year the harvest multiplies. Meanwhile, the grain of wheat that stayed in the barn remains there all alone, never growing or multiplying—but he has stayed very comfortable.

Which grain of wheat are you? Are you playing it safe, or have you let Christ plant you in the world? The only way you'll become useful and fruitful in God's kingdom is by abiding in Him and trusting that His desires for your life are worthwhile.

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Daily Devotional - Monday, June 17, 2019 - The Requirements of Servanthood

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Daily Devotional - Monday, June 17, 2019 - The Requirements of Servanthood

Luke 19:1-9

In sending his son to earth, God didn't intend for Him to be a superstar. Jesus came to serve. As His disciples, we are to follow His example and serve a lost and hurting world. In today's passage, we read about Zaccheus, who began to demonstrate qualities he saw Jesus model.

Awareness: Although surrounded by a crowd, the Lord stopped and took notice of one particular man perched in a tree. Zaccheus was hated and rejected because he was a tax collector. Although he was rich, there was something missing in his life, and Christ recognized his need. In our life, there are many people like Zaccheus—needy, empty, lonely, and searching for hope. But too often, we're preoccupied with our activities and don't even notice them.

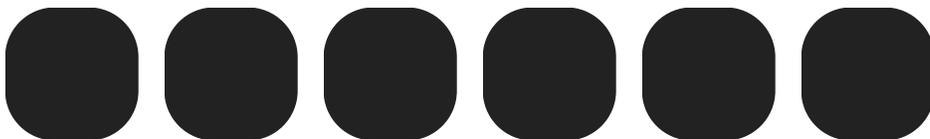
Availability: Jesus was heading to Jerusalem to carry out the most important act in human history: our redemption. Yet He stopped to spend time with a spiritually needy man. What is so important that it keeps you from giving people your time and attention?

Acceptance: Although Zaccheus was a notorious sinner, Jesus didn't say, "Clean up your act, and then I'll come to your house." We're called, not to fix people, but to share the transforming gospel of Christ.

How are you doing at serving those around you? Maybe it's time to slow down enough to see who might be in need. God places all kinds of opportunities in our path, but if we're not attentive, we'll miss them. Sometimes we just need to pause, pray, and open our eyes.

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Daily Devotional - Thursday, June 13, 2019 - The Origin of Unmet Needs

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Romans 5:6-8

Emotional needs can be every bit as acute as physical ones. That’s because the Lord has hardwired into human beings the desire for love, acceptance, and a sense of safety. These necessities are what cause us to seek out friendships, marriage, and, ultimately, a relationship with God. And at the root of all of our “heart needs” is the longing to feel valued.

Without a solid sense of self-worth, a person cannot fully receive love and acceptance. Nor can he feel safe or at rest. The uncertain man projects onto family and friends the God-sized job of proving his value. From them, he seeks constant verbal assurance and displays of their loyalty.

The problem is that no human can be an inexhaustible emotional resource.

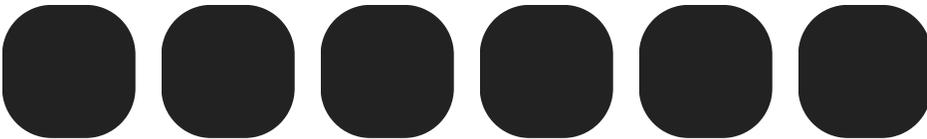
Inevitably, basing worth on people's judgments and acts of love can have a "yo-yo" effect on self-image—it's down, it's up, it's down again. Besides, no one can build an adequate collection of good opinions to substitute for God's faithfulness and dedication to us. On the cross, Jesus Christ gave the only accurate measure of our significance: He considered every single person worth dying for. We can't buy or earn God's unconditional love. It is ours to receive with an open heart. Jesus' sacrifice stands as proof that we are of infinite value to the Sovereign of the universe.

God desires to be our unlimited emotional resource. In fact, if our self-worth is based upon anything but Him, then it is unstable. A rock-solid self-image is rooted in the recognition of who we are in Christ—beloved, redeemed, and holy children. Nothing changes His opinion.

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Daily Devotional - Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - Praying for Our Needs

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Matthew 6:19-34

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have God's invitation to ask Him for whatever we need. What an amazing privilege! He's not a stingy heavenly Father, but one who loves us and cares about every aspect of our life.

Sometimes, however, if the answers we expect aren't materializing, we may question God's love, interest, or ability. In today's passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reassures us that we can pray for our needs with full confidence in our Father's provision. We are to ...

Trust in His Care. Whenever we start to wonder whether our Father hears our requests, we can look outside at His creation (Matt. 6:26-32). If God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, won't He also care for His beloved children?

Believe His Promise. Jesus assures us that God will provide our basic needs if we'll make Him our top priority in life (Matt. 6:32-33).

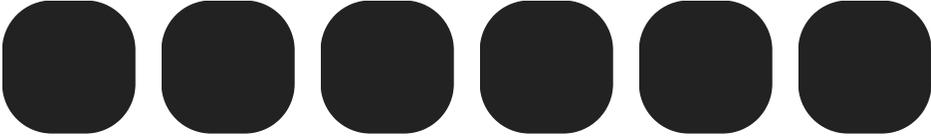
Seek His Kingdom and Righteousness. Jesus warns against making earthly things our treasure and admonishes us to store up heavenly riches instead (Matt. 6:19-21). That's what it means to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. When the desire and ambition of our life is to obey the Lord and reflect His character in our words, attitudes, and actions, He assumes the responsibility to provide whatever we may need.

God's ways are different from how we naturally think. Human logic leads us to conclude that if we need something, we should seek it, but God's perspective says, "Seek Me, and I'll take care of your need." Whose way are you trusting?

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