

“ADJ - Disciple’s Disciplines Part 1” (6-5-22)

Introduction: Training in Scripture - don’t get caught fighting a snake with a hanger

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

(16) All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Note: Know how to use the scripture & apply it to your life for growth and preparedness!

Our Focus today: Mastering the Word of God - Reading / Meditating / Studying

1) Reading the Word

- Over 10x Jesus answers questions with the question: “**Have you not read?**”
- **Examples:** Sabbath worship, marriage, death, & life after death, even his own identity & divinity

Luke 10:25-28 (ESV)

(25) And behold, a lawyer stood up to put (Jesus) to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (26) (Jesus) said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” (27) And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (28) And (Jesus) said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

Note: Jesus encourages the lawyer to read the scripture and apply it to his life!

Luke 10:29 (ESV) - But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Note: Beware how you read - Do you only focus on what agrees with you, makes you feel better, or justified?

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, and then asks . . .

Luke 10:36-37 (ESV)

(36) Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” (37) He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Note: Jesus taught the reading & application of scripture. He also lived by this - at the launch of his ministry he soon returns to his home town . . .

Luke 4:16-17 (ESV)

(16) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. (17) And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

Note: Regular reading was his custom (Public reading and then speaking about it together). Notice, Jesus found a specific place - this tells us He was very familiar with the Word!

Luke 4:18-21 (ESV)

(18) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (20) And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. (21) And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Note: Jesus came to understand that this scripture applied directly to him - his very identity & purpose!

2) Meditating - Reflecting on the Word

Moses & Joshua - a master advises his apprentice how to lead as he passes the baton . . .

Joshua 1:7-8 (ESV)

(7) Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. (8) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Meditate (verb): to growl, to groan, to sigh, to mutter, to speak; used figuratively: to meditate, to ponder.

- **Moans** of grief: When much is weighing on my mind - what will I mediate upon?
- **Growl** of a lion: Finding courage in the face of fear
- **Coos** of a dove: Finding peace in difficulty by looking to the Lord

When we meditate on the word, we absorb it like a sponge, and then whatever we face, the Word is what pours out of us when squeezed: **Example from Jesus life** - Tempted in the wilderness (Luke 4) . . .

Luke 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness (2) for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.

Note: Luke then records 3 different temptations (even one where Satan uses & twists scripture). Jesus answers with the Word each time. It was in him, so it flowed out of him!

Luke 4:13 (ESV)

And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Note: Satan isn't gonna stop coming - the question is when we are squeezed what flows out?

David writes . . .

Psalms 1:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

David's son Solomon writes . . .

Proverbs 4:20-22 (ESV)

(20) My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. (21) Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. (22) For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

***An apprentice meditates, ponders, considers, reflects, and ultimately lives by the words of His Master!**

Psalms 119 - a long passage, and a great place to learn about (and practice) meditating on the Word!

(15) I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

(97) Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.

(99) I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

(105) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

3) Studying the Word

Luke 2:41-43a (ESV)

(41) Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. (42) And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. (43) And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.

Note: The custom (spiritual habits / disciplines) of the parents, led to a hunger in Jesus to know God's ways!

Luke 2:46-47, 52 (ESV)

(46) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. . . (52) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Note: Jesus is listening, asking questions, giving answers, & gaining understanding.

- **Growth** - happens through personal study (ADJ pg. 133-134) & learning in community
- **Results** - increased in wisdom (Applied Knowledge), stature (Character), favor (Grace) with God & Man.

***The disciplines of a disciple will produce fruit in us & is meant to produce fruit through us!**

Jesus was the ultimate master & he used the disciplines to develop apprentices . . .

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

(18) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Questions to ponder as you consider your own study & use of the spiritual tool - God's Word:

- Can you reproduce? (are you moving towards maturity?)
- Should you reproduce? (are you growing in wisdom & stature?)
- Are you reproducing yourself? (who is asking for what you have? are you available?)

Conclusion: Start where you are - consistent reading, reflection & meditation, committed study - and then watch as you grow in Grace!