

Come As You Are (CAYA) Service # 1
Wednesday, January 7, 2009
Rev. Howard-John Wesley, Alfred Street Baptist Church

Lesson on Time

Rev. Wesley initially mentioned that the following scripture that was encouraging to him during his college years was Psalm 25, particularly verse 7:

*7 Remember not the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O LORD.*

Psalm 25:7

Scripture reference - Luke 10: 38-42

The Message Version

38-40 As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand."

41-42 The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."

Story: Take into consideration a man moving a refrigerator in his home. He is struggling to get and a man walks by, offers his help. The two men begin to move the refrigerator, but they aren't making any progress. The second man finally says to the first man, "Man, I can't understand why we can't get this refrigerator in your house!" The first man replies, "While you were trying to get the fridge in, I was trying to move it out!"

The same thing happens in our daily lives. God wants us to move one way and the devil continue to try to push us in another.

In our young adult years, it is birthed within us to see Him. Situations may occur that would draw us into a closer relationship with God:

1. Conviction (you know, the hand in the cookie jar type of event)
2. A broken heart; this can come from friendships as well as emotional relationships with a member of the opposite sex (which occurs most of the time).
3. Realizing that having "all of these" degrees isn't enough in your life. While education is great, God calls us to a covenant relationship with Him, also.
4. Having that friend who is serious about God. You know the one who, when they say they are going to pray for you, they DO! They attend church, spend daily one-on-one time with God, etc.

God has **one** goal for us: to make us hungry for His presence.

Story: There was a little boy with a boat, standing on the shore. The little boy wanted to pull the boat in, but it was out of reach for him. He couldn't figure out how to get it close to him. A man comes along, picks up a rock and throws it in the boat's direction. The little boy is puzzled as to why the man, was throwing rocks at his boat. The man picks up another rock and throws it towards the boat (mind you, he is throwing these rocks in the boat's direction, but the rocks fall BEYOND the boat). God does the same thing with us when we aren't "as close" to Him as we should be. See, as the rocks continue to land BEYOND the boat, it makes ripples in the water, which, eventually, move the boat closer to the boy. This is the same thing that God wants to do with us. God says that we are too far away from Him and He wants to call us back closer to Him.

All of us have gone through something that made us say we need to be better (refer to Deuteronomy 28 and Proverbs 14:12).

Think about three things that push against us to be close to God (write down these three things to yourself). Most of these, if not all, will be dealt with during these CAYA services.

There is book called *Reveal* (please help with the author) that lists the top four things that cause young Christians to struggle:

1. Failure to prioritize time – especially time with God
2. Inappropriate relationships (48%)
 - a. These things "call" you away from your time with God
 - b. Learn to conquer your temptations
3. Personal weaknesses and addictions (26%)
4. Emotional issues (anger, insecurity, fear, etc.) (17%)

Realize that TIME is your most valuable asset.

- People's #1 regret in their latter years are not so good use of time (could have used it better)
- How we use our time tells a lot about ourselves

Referring back to the lesson scripture, this basically goes to HOW Mary and Martha's time was being spent. Was it a *good* use of time or the *best* use of time?

Realize that the devil just wants us to be busy so we can't make/spend time with God. It's called Devil Deception. You know how the story goes. We get up, go to work, work all day, get off work, go to the gym, go to meetings, come home, shower, and then we are tired and we go to sleep. We do this only to get up and do the same thing the next day. Has any of that time been spent with God? One on one time?

We all have been in friendships and relationship that are now over due to lack of time being spent with us.

NOTE: Christianity is NOT a religion! It is a **relationship** with Jesus.

There are three types of time:

1. Quality – What are we doing while together
2. Quantity – How long do we spend together
3. Priority - other things you'll say no to in order to spend time together

Set aside **daily** time to spend with God. Sunday ain't gonna cut it anymore. That 90 minutes, one day a week, nope....not making the cut any longer. God has got to become a priority for us. The more time we spend with God, the better we can be! Our life would be stronger.

Rev. Wesley's request for us:

1. Schedule 30 minutes a day for devotion with God.
 - a. Start with a prayer of invocation. Ask God to shelter these 30 minutes and for Him to be present with us.
 - b. Take some time to read the Bible. For instance, read a Psalm every day; read Paul's letters; read one of the Gospels.
 - c. Get a good devotional book. NOTE: Every month, Rev. Wesley will recommend a new book for us to read. This month's book is *A Heart Like His* by Beth Moore. It is an eleven-week study.
 - d. End your 30 minutes in prayer. Do the ACTS prayer:
A = Adoration
C = Confession
T = Thanksgiving
S = Supplication

Next month's lesson will be on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Rev. Wesley will be teaching/preaching on "What's Love Got to Do With It", referencing Sampson and Delilah (from the book of Judges).