

Finding and Navigating The Narrow Way

Lesson 7– LETTING GO

INTRODUCTION

In Jesus' plain words, John 18:36 Jesus answered, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."*

The Bible is replete with statements, that life here as we know and exist within it, is temporary. Isa 40:6-8 *A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* We have all heard this proclaimed with the emphasis that God's word endures. Yet, we forget to emphasize the first part of the statement, that PEOPLE ARE AS GRASS – we wither and fade away. Life here is temporary. As we have seen in the previous lesson, and in Jesus' statement, God's Kingdom is not of this world, therefore not subject to the "fade away" rule. It is eternal! If then, it is eternal, doesn't it make sense that if we are to covet anything, it would be what is eternal? Yet, why do so many have trouble letting go of the temporary now?

SCRIPTURES FOR THIS LESSON

Psa 102:11 *My days are like an evening shadow; I wither away like grass. But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever; you are remembered throughout all generations.*

Psa 103:13-17 *As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children*

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Matt 6:24-34 *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why*

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are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

1 Pet.1:22-25 *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

AFFIRMATIONS

- God is infinitely good, far more loving, gentle and kind to His children than any earthly mother or father imaginable.
- God is infinitely complete – there is NOTHING that can threaten Him. There is NOTHING that can be taken from Him so as to make him less than complete, nor added to Him because He is already complete and needs nothing.
- WE – YOU are made in the likeness and glory of God the Father. We are finite, yet in God through Jesus, we are in and have complete union with our Father and our Father with us. In this relationship, we ARE risen in Him, seated in heavenly places and there is NOTHING that can separate us from the love of God.
- Before you can know WHO you are, you must come to know WHO God is!
- In life, there is only one RACE distinction that matters. You are either God's, or you are not. Which are we?
- Because you are in Christ and Christ is in YOU, YOU are in the Father and the Father is in YOU, and YOU are HIS CHILD!
- There are two kingdoms that you can see right now, fully integrated and both good. T But you need to understand what you choose and decide to put your roots in.
- All that is perishable are beautiful gifts, given by God for us to enjoy and use appropriately. Yet, it is only when we find that we can let go of them, that we find the true delight in them.

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QUESTIONS FOR THIS LESSON

Name five roles that you have had or currently have in this world. Which of these brings you the most joy? _____

What or who would you be without those roles? _____

Which of the roles you find yourself in would be the hardest to let go of? Why?

Which of these roles do you find working against your ability to see yourself as the son or daughter of God? _____

What are roles that you have or can have, that would support and improve your ability to see yourself as the son or daughter of God? _____
