

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Title: Receiving Guidance

Presumes Honesty

Series: God Still Guides ... 4

Text: James 4:13 - 18 and Mark 4:1 - 25

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATED my congregation to look in the mirror of God's Word and allow Him to do any necessary grooming!

1 Timothy 4:13, "*Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.*"

Introduction:

Review of last Sunday's devotional:

Sincere Faith from Grandmother and Mother

1. Sincere Faith of Lois and Eunice, 2 Timothy 1:5
2. Sincere Faith Based in The Word, 2 Timothy 3:14 – 17
3. Sincere Faith Enriched by Paul, 2 Timothy 1:2
4. Sincere Faith Enriched Through Gifting, 2 Timothy 1:6 - 7

Reminder of God Still Guides...3

Guide Posts Along "the WAY"

1. Guide Post Marked LOVE, John 13:34 - 35
2. Guide Post Marked SERVICE, Mark 9:34 – 35
3. Guide Post Marked PERSONAL GROWTH, 2 Timothy 2:15 – 21
4. Guide Post Marked INVESTMENT, Matthew 28:18 – 20

I am sure that most people here and those listening know what a "compass" is and what it is used for; my father preferred a mirrored compass to a base-plate compass. He introduced the workings of a compass to me with the question, "Why does a compass have a mirror on it?" His answer, "So you can see the one who is lost!!!"

1. Being Honest About Ourselves Requires a Mirror:

1 Corinthians 13:12, "*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*"

~ God knows each individual FULLY and seeks to speak to each one regarding their OWN situation.

~ God seeks to guide each individual on a heading right for their current position to bring them to a truly godly destination!

~ There are MANY voices speaking and I must decide what I will listen to and test it to the mirror of God's WORD; I must be honest with myself.

2. Being Honest About Ourselves Requires Wisdom:

James 3:13 – 18, (13) "*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*"

the source of the voices of guidance that fall upon our ears:

James 3:15, "This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic."

~ Earthly – "politically correct"

~ Unspiritual (sensual) – that which satisfies the flesh or the individual, "If it feels good do it."

~ Demonic (devilish) – 2 Corinthians 11:4, "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

Satan is a master of "proof texting."

~ The wisdom that comes from above – the WORD of God, godly mentors, godly friends.

3. Being Honest About Ourselves Requires Hearing:

Mark 4:1 – 25, John! How are YOU hearing?

~ Is my heart like the sidewalk?

Mark 4:15, "*And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*"

Bitterness! The father whose son died of cancer.

~ Is my heart filled with rocks – result of volcanic activity...

Pain, has not yet become bitterness, but if not dealt with will become a sidewalk.

Mark 4:16, "And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, receive it with joy."

~ Is my heart over grown with thorns and weeds?

Personal confession!!!

Mark 4:18 – 19, "*And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, (19) but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*"

~ Is my heart well cultivated (cultivate – prepare and use [land] for crops or gardening); am I actively dealing with any bitterness, unresolved pain, ungodly cares. Is my heart prepared to receive guidance from the Word, godly mentors and godly friends?

Do I TRUST the Lord for the yield???

Conclusion:

Do I regularly check my hearing?