

Make Sure You Have the Right Focus  
(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, December 5, 2021)

Matthew 16:23-27

<sup>23</sup> But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are <sup>[a]</sup>an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

**Take Up the Cross and Follow Him**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

**23** Pero él, volviéndose, dijo a Pedro: !!Quítate de delante de mí, Satanás!; me eres tropiezo, porque no pones la mira en las cosas de Dios, sino en las de los hombres.

**24** Entonces Jesús dijo a sus discípulos: Si alguno quiere venir en pos de mí, niéguese a sí mismo, y tome su cruz, y sígame.

**25** Porque todo el que quiera salvar su vida, la perderá; y todo el que pierda su vida por causa de mí, la hallará.

**26** Porque ¿qué aprovechará al hombre, si ganare todo el mundo, y perdiere su alma? ¿O qué recompensa dará el hombre por su alma?

**27** Porque el Hijo del Hombre vendrá en la gloria de su Padre con sus ángeles, y entonces pagará a cada uno conforme a sus obras.

Marcos 8.31-38

**Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection**

<sup>31</sup> And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not <sup>[a]</sup>mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

## **Take Up the Cross and Follow Him**

<sup>34</sup> When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? <sup>38</sup> For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

**31** Y comenzó a enseñarles que le era necesario al Hijo del Hombre padecer mucho, y ser desechado por los ancianos, por los principales sacerdotes y por los escribas, y ser muerto, y resucitar después de tres días.

**32** Esto les decía claramente. Entonces Pedro le tomó aparte y comenzó a reconvenirle.

**33** Pero él, volviéndose y mirando a los discípulos, reprendió a Pedro, diciendo:

!!Quítate de delante de mí, Satanás! porque no pones la mira en las cosas de Dios, sino en las de los hombres.

**34** Y llamando a la gente y a sus discípulos, les dijo: Si alguno quiere venir en pos de mí, niéguese a sí mismo, y tome su cruz, y sígame.

**35** Porque todo el que quiera salvar su vida, la perderá; y todo el que pierda su vida por causa de mí y del evangelio, la salvará.

**36** Porque ¿qué aprovechará al hombre si ganare todo el mundo, y perdiere su alma?

**37** ¿O qué recompensa dará el hombre por su alma?

**38** Porque el que se avergonzare de mí y de mis palabras en esta generación adúltera y pecadora, el Hijo del Hombre se avergonzará también de él, cuando venga en la gloria de su Padre con los santos ángeles.

Lucas 9.57-62

**57** Yendo ellos, uno le dijo en el camino: Señor, te seguiré adondequiera que vayas.

**58** Y le dijo Jesús: Las zorras tienen guaridas, y las aves de los cielos nidos; mas el Hijo del Hombre no tiene dónde recostar la cabeza.

**59** Y dijo a otro: Sígueme. Él le dijo: Señor, déjame que primero vaya y entierre a mi padre.

**60** Jesús le dijo: Deja que los muertos entierren a sus muertos; y tú ve, y anuncia el reino de Dios.

**61** Entonces también dijo otro: Te seguiré, Señor; pero déjame que me despida primero de los que están en mi casa.

**62** Y Jesús le dijo: Ninguno que poniendo su mano en el arado mira hacia atrás, es apto para el reino de Dios.

Colosenses 3.1-17

**3** Si, pues, habéis resucitado con Cristo, buscad las cosas de arriba, donde está Cristo sentado a la diestra de Dios.

**2** Poned la mira en las cosas de arriba, no en las de la tierra.

**3** Porque habéis muerto, y vuestra vida está escondida con Cristo en Dios.

**4** Cuando Cristo, vuestra vida, se manifieste, entonces vosotros también seréis manifestados con él en gloria.

**La vida antigua y la nueva**

**5** Haced morir, pues, lo terrenal en vosotros: fornicación, impureza, pasiones desordenadas, malos deseos y avaricia, que es idolatría;

**6** cosas por las cuales la ira de Dios viene sobre los hijos de desobediencia,

**7** en las cuales vosotros también anduvisteis en otro tiempo cuando vivíais en ellas.

**8** Pero ahora dejad también vosotros todas estas cosas: ira, enojo, malicia, blasfemia, palabras deshonestas de vuestra boca.

**9** No mintáis los unos a los otros, habiéndoos despojado del viejo hombre con sus hechos,

**10** y revestido del nuevo, el cual conforme a la imagen del que lo creó se va renovando hasta el conocimiento pleno,

**11** donde no hay griego ni judío, circuncisión ni incircuncisión, bárbaro ni escita, siervo ni libre, sino que Cristo es el todo, y en todos.

**12** Vestíos, pues, como escogidos de Dios, santos y amados, de entrañable misericordia, de benignidad, de humildad, de mansedumbre, de paciencia;

**13** soportándoos unos a otros, y perdonándoos unos a otros si alguno tuviere queja contra otro. De la manera que Cristo os perdonó, así también hacedlo vosotros.

**14** Y sobre todas estas cosas vestíos de amor, que es el vínculo perfecto.

**15** Y la paz de Dios gobierne en vuestros corazones, a la que asimismo fuisteis llamados en un solo cuerpo; y sed agradecidos.

**16** La palabra de Cristo more en abundancia en vosotros, enseñándoos y exhortándoos unos a otros en toda sabiduría, cantando con gracia en vuestros corazones al Señor con salmos e himnos y cánticos espirituales.

**17** Y todo lo que hacéis, sea de palabra o de hecho, hacedlo todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús, dando gracias a Dios Padre por medio de él.

**Deberes sociales de la nueva vida**

**18** Casadas, estad sujetas a vuestros maridos, como conviene en el Señor.

**19** Maridos, amad a vuestras mujeres, y no seáis ásperos con ellas.

**20** Hijos, obedeced a vuestros padres en todo, porque esto agrada al Señor.

**21** Padres, no exasperéis a vuestros hijos, para que no se desalienten.

**22** Siervos, obedeced en todo a vuestros amos terrenales, no sirviendo al ojo, como los que quieren agradar a los hombres, sino con corazón sincero, temiendo a Dios.

**23** Y todo lo que hagáis, hacedlo de corazón, como para el Señor y no para los hombres;

**24** sabiendo que del Señor recibiréis la recompensa de la herencia, porque a Cristo el Señor servís.

**25** Mas el que hace injusticia, recibirá la injusticia que hiciere, porque no hay acepción de personas.

Hebrews 12:1-29

**12** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **The Discipline of God**

**3** For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. **4** You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. **5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the [c]chastening of the Lord,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

**6**

For whom the Lord loves He chastens,

And scourges every son whom He receives.”

**7** If[d] you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **8** But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. **9** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? **10** For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. **11** Now no [e]chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

### **Renew Your Spiritual Vitality**

**12** Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, **13** and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

**14** Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; **16** lest there *be* any fornicator or [f]profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. **17** For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

### **The Glorious Company**

**18** For you have not come [g]to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and [h]darkness and tempest, **19** and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. **20** (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned [i]or shot with an arrow.” **21** And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”)

**22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, **23** to the [j]general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.

### **Hear the Heavenly Voice**

**25** See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, **26** whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I [k]shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” **27** Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

**28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [l]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **29** For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Isaiah 26:3-4

You will keep *him* in perfect peace,  
*Whose mind is stayed on You,*  
Because he trusts in You.

Trust in the Lord forever,  
For in Yah, the Lord, *is* [b]everlasting strength.

How do we make sure we have the right focus?

1) Realize that we don't know the future. God can change our agenda at a moment's notice.

James 4:1-17

**1** Where do [a]wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? **2** You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and [b]war. [c]Yet you do not have because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. **4** [d]Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

**6** But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."

### **Humility Cures Worldliness**

**7** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. **9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

### **Do Not Judge a Brother**

**11** Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **12** There is one [e]Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who [f] are you to judge [g]another?

### **Do Not Boast About Tomorrow**

**13** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow [h]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; **14** whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. **15** Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." **16** But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

**17** Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

2) Do our part in spiritual warfare in prayer, Bible study, and decision-making.

5,4,3,2,1-

God can give us strategies that help us to make the right decisions...

This can be the intersection of psychology and religion...

We know that these strategies will only be effective in the long-term if they are anointed by God, flowing from religion that is based on a relationship with God through the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Son, Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

**3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **4** For the weapons of our warfare *are* not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **6** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.