

SERMON: A WINNING COMBINATION

Matthew 13:52

Then said He into them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Introduction

Life is a balancing act. Certain conditions and stages of life are more difficult to find balance than others. It takes special effort to balance on a tight rope. Let's face it: sometimes we feel as if we are on a tight rope and the fall would be devastating. We have to balance work time with family time. Many times, in trying to maintain our equilibrium, we feel like we are juggling family, job, church, and many more things that solicit our time and attention. Even our physical bodies work hard to maintain a balance between our internal systems. We call this process homeostasis.

In our text, Jesus had a dialog with the scribes. They were the lawyers of that day. They were considered the experts in interpreting the law given by Moses. Jesus knew that many of their interpretations were influenced by popular Greco-Roman culture and were skewed by moral and ethical errors. Their rulings always seemed to favor the rich and the privileged. Those scribes who had listened to his parables and understood the true meaning of these stories were like the head of a household who opens his foot locker on his birthday.

Jesus is alluding to a common practice of that day. Every man of means had a box called his treasure. It was really like a modern-day foot locker. This is where he kept his most valuable possessions: special clothes, jewelry, legal documents, life savings, and any keepsakes. No one, other than himself, was allowed to open it. To open it and look at the content or remove items was totally disrespectful. There was one exception. A week before his birthday, his family and friends were allowed to open it and sneak in his birthday presents. So as not to spoil the surprise, he would not open the foot locker during this time period. He had to wait until his birthday arrived. Then on his birthday he would open it and discover his gifts. Many times the birthday presents were placed at or near the bottom, covered by his old stuff. So he would pull out old stuff and new stuff from the same foot locker. Maybe he would even demonstrate how an old piece of his wardrobe would match a new clothing item. Jesus was telling the scribes that the law of Moses is good and should not be discarded, but it must be interpreted in a new way. Actually, the new way was the return to the original intent. There must be a balance between the old and the new. Each has value. As we go into a new year, let us look at some other aspects of our lives that we need to maintain in proper balance. When we get the proper balance, we have a winning combination that will help us succeed in life. God's Holy Word and the Holy Spirit will help us to attain and maintain this beneficial balance.

Exposition

1. Ideas and Implementation.

(Ideas Without Implementation Leads To Frustration.)

2. Action and Inaction.

(Sometimes The Best Thing To Do Is Nothing.)

(You Can Still Do Something When You Do Nothing-Pray!)

(Timing is Everything.)

(Do The Right Thing, At The Right Time, In The Right Way.)

3. Prayer And Hard Work.

(Work As If It All Depended On You.)

(Pray As If It All Depended On God.)

(Please Don't Over Emphasize One To The Exclusion Of The Other.)

4. Love Of Self And Love Of Neighbors.

(Love Your Neighbor As Yourself.)

(Everybody Is Your Neighbor-The Good Samaritan Knew This.)

5. Complaining and Correcting.

(Don't Complain Too Much If You Are Not Willing To Try To Correct It.)

(A Solution Without Execution Leads To Destitution.)

6. Faith and Reason.

(They Are The Sides Of The Same Coin.)

(They Complement Each Other.)

(However, Faith Will Go Where Reason Dare Not Tread.)

7. Old and New.

(There Is Nothing New Under The Sun-But It's New To Us.)

(We Get Both Roots And Wings.)

(Ships Have Both An Anchor And Sails.)

(In Christ, We Experience Both Stability And Spontaneity.)

Closing Thoughts

When we have the winning combination, God will give us new mercies each new day. I will end by quoting Lamentations 3:22-23.

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassion fails not. They are new every morning: Great is thy faithfulness.” Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

**Copyright © 2022 by James C. Ward
All Rights Reserved**