

# SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 21.07.24

**PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN**

“PRACTICES OF JESUS: SCRIPTURE”

## BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

*BEING, THINKING & DOING*

**Conviction of a Disciple:** A growing and maturing disciple of Christ adopts a default posture of service, following the example of Jesus.

### OVERVIEW

As we grow and mature as followers of Christ, we grow in our engagement with scripture and in our understanding of reading scripture well.

### ACTION

**Step 1:** Reflect: Is there a time when scripture brought clarity or strength to you during a difficult situation. How did it shape your understanding of the circumstances?

**Step 2:** Commit: Consider your current engagement with scripture. What steps can you take this week in order to deepen your understanding and memorisation of the Word of God?

**Step 3:** Act: Identify one specific rhythm (either adding or removing something) you can incorporate into your daily routine this week to enhance your connection with scripture.

# THOUGHT

**SCRIPTURE: LUKE 4:1-13**

It is fascinating that throughout the New Testament, the writers routinely are pointing to, alluding to, or quoting from the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). In fact, when Jesus undergoes tests or confrontations, rather than using his own words, he turns to these ancient texts as well.

It is as if he knows something much deeper is happening than simply a confrontation with people that didn't like him. He saw quite clearly that there are spiritual battles happening beneath the surface of his external circumstances and seemed to think the best way to confront these forces was with scripture - what we often call the written Word of God.

Of course, this meant he had these scriptures deep within his being. He spent years reading and memorising them. He became one with them in such a way that when testing came, the profound wisdom and authority of scripture naturally rose to the surface to speak clarity about who he was, who his Father was, and what the Truth was about whatever test he was encountering.

It's eye-opening to realise we have the same 24-hours in a day that people have had throughout human history; the same time that Jesus had. The question is "what are we doing with that time?"

What rhythms and voices are we allowing to shape our lives so that when trials come, we too can stand on the Truth of who we are in Christ, who he is, and then anchor to him so we aren't swept away in the storm.

Spiritual disciplines in our life with Jesus are what Eugene Peterson calls "rhythms of grace". This is a dynamic process which simply means there is movement and adjustments needed throughout this journey. We add some things in and we remove other less-helpful ones, we cling to some practices and turn loose of others as the Spirit leads us.

From Jesus' perspective, reality is that we are in a spiritual conflict and the enemy tests us through enticement and accusation. Those are the two weapons used against us - questioning our identity and safety as God's sons and daughters, and then bringing guilt and shame on us when we don't live out that reality.

So how do we allow our minds and hearts to be reshaped by God's perspective?

## **We follow Jesus and his example.**

Jesus' example shows that deeply knowing scripture - letting it penetrate the deepest places within us - is one of the most powerful weapons we have.

Our engagement with scripture is about training ourselves for the trials and battles of life, that we might prevail and overcome through Christ - the Living Word.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. How do you think Jesus' use of scripture during his tests and confrontations can serve as a model for us in our own spiritual battles?
2. What are some practical ways we can integrate scripture into our daily lives to ensure it becomes a natural part of our response to challenges?
3. Discuss the concept of "rhythms of grace". How can we support each other in establishing and maintaining these rhythms in our discipleship to Jesus?

## **PRAYER**

Lord,

Thank You for the example of Jesus and His deep reliance on Your Word during His trials.

Help us to engage with scripture daily, allowing it to shape our hearts and guide us through all of life. Strengthen our faith and equip us with Your truth so that we may stand firm and grow into your image.

Amen.