



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

JANUARY 2016

Forgetting the Past, Reaching Forward

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

LESSONS

not having laid hold of it yet

Life goes on...the race is not over...the goal has not been reached.

The one thing I do

The present is now; the only time we can do anything is today.

forgetting the past

Whatever was done in the past cannot be changed: be it good or bad. To wallow in self-pity over misdeeds of the past, or to engage in boastful pride of things done, will have an adverse effect on how you live today.

Press on to the goal

Learn from your past actions: have those worthy of praise stimulate you to do more of the same. And have those deserving condemnation prod you to abstain from repeating them.

Upward call of God in Christ Jesus

Living for Jesus may not be easy, but the prize is out-of-this-world.

**FOOD
FOR
THOUGHT**

A man's work is a portrait of himself.

Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

James 3:13

Lessons from the References to Money

The widow's mite. Luk.21:1-4. Insignificant in comparison to other contributions.

Her generosity was great because it was all she had.

The Lord is not concerned with what you would do if you had a million dollars, but what you do with the dollars you have.

A Samaritan paying two denarii for the care of the injured traveler. Luk.10:35

He came to the aid of a stranger and paid two day's wages (and more if needed) for his care.

Helping others in need may take a fair amount of time and money. Jam.2:15-16

The field laborers were paid a day's wage (denarius). Mat.20:2ff. (Same as a soldier's pay.)

The early workers were treated fairly. Late comers were paid generously.

The Lord is never unfair in His dealings. He is generous to whom He wishes.

Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with costly perfume (worth 300 denarii). Joh.12:1-8

Judas was upset over the "waste." However, whatever is expended on Jesus is "invested."

We show how great our love is for the Lord by not holding back what is costly to us: be it our time, energy, or resources.

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (shekels). Mat.26:14-15

Ironically, this was the price of a slave. Exo.21:32

The low value placed on Him by Judas is shared by unbelievers today.

Jesus came as the "suffering servant," to serve our needs. Isa.53:11

Two sparrows were sold for a cent (assarion). Mat.10:28-33

(Roughly, two-for-a-nickel.)

It shows the great worth of our souls, no matter how insignificant we may seem to be.

One talent man who hid his talent. Mat.25:14-15

He was put in charge of a sum of money according to his ability.

Christians who may have less "talent" are expected to use what talent the Lord has given them.

Unmerciful servant owed 10,000 talents to his master. Mat.18:23-24ff.

He was unwilling to forgive another servant who owed him only 100 denarii. 18:28

The Lord cancels our debt of sin (one that we could never repay). The debt of others against us may seem great, but pale in comparison.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RICH

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

WARNING FOR THE 'WANNA-BE'S'

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:9-10

Return of the Prodigal Son

Parable: Luke 15:11-32

What's **not** found in this parable.

THE SON DID NOT

See his father as the one to blame.

Think his actions being the result of his upbringing.

Believe his father stifled his self-expression.

See himself as a victim of society.

Believe people should be there with a "safety net."

Complain "where are friends when you need them?"

Demand assistance, not criticism.

See himself a victim of physical problems.

Conclude he has a disease, a sickness.

Demand understanding; not censure.

Believe he is the victim of a genetic fault.

Claim actions not voluntary: couldn't help it; beyond his control.

Say nature played a cruel hoax on him.

See himself as a victim of circumstances.

Think it was only a matter of bad timing.
(If it wasn't for the famine, things would be different.)

See God as the one who is at fault

"Where is He when I need Him most?"

Say, "How do you expect me to believe in a God that let's this happen to me?"

QUESTION

When a wayward child (or brother or sister in Christ) finds life a disaster, and realize they have sinned, what should they do?

What the son did: Luke 15:18-19

"I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'"

THE FATHER DID NOT SAY

What are you doing back here?

What do you want now?

What happened to your inheritance?

I can't forgive you for what you have done.

You owe me big time.

Do you realize just how much you hurt me?

You have no idea just how many sleepless nights you caused me.

Do you realize how hard it has been explaining to others what happened to you?

You made your bed, so lie in it.

QUESTION

When a penitent, erring child (or brother or sister in Christ) returns what should I say?

What the father did: Luke 15:20-24

So he [the son] got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." And they began to celebrate.



Ponder This

Staying Healthy

There are many fads and gimmicks that promise an easy way to be trim and fit, but it's becoming increasingly apparent that the proper intake of food coupled with proper exercise is the way to remain physically fit. I see a parallel here: Having good spiritual health requires the proper intake of spiritual food coupled with the exercise of one's faith.

What is seen with the eyes and heard with the ears must nourish the soul. The intake of "junk food," while catering to the lusts of the flesh, renders one spiritually unhealthy.

Proper exercise strengthens one's faith, thereby rendering it fit to deal with the daily affairs of life. Inactivity causes one to become a spiritual "couch potato," unfit to do the Master's bidding.

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

Rx for Spiritual Health

Daily fill your soul with good thoughts and be busy doing good.

But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:3-4



WORD STUDY

enhance your Bible knowledge

'MINDED'

HARMFUL

NAIVE

*"How long, O naive ones, will you love being **simple-minded**? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge?"*

Proverbs 1:22

STUBBORN

*"Listen to Me, you **stubborn-minded**, Who are far from righteousness."*

Isaiah 46:12

DOUBLE

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you **double-minded**.*

James 4:8

WORLDLY

*These are the ones who cause divisions, **worldly-minded**, devoid of the Spirit.*

Jude 1:19



BENEFICIAL

SOBER

*Become **sober-minded** as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

1 Corinthians 15:34

NOBLE

*Now these were more **noble-minded** than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*

Acts 17:11

LIKE (SAME)

*Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be **like-minded**, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

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