

A person wearing a dark hoodie is seen from the back, looking out over a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the landscape. The person's hand is visible, holding a small object, possibly a cigarette.

SEEK GOD FOR WISDOM

TO BE LIKE JESUS

SHINE SEEK PRESERVE, MARK 4:21-25

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- Last week I asked the question, “Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?”
 - “Randy, what story will He write in my life?”
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:17 NIV**, Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
 - To learn to live and be secure in this freedom, He begins to grow and mature His Spiritual fruit in our lives
 - **Galatians 5:22-23 AMP**, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- Last week I asked the question, “Is there room in your heart for God to write His story?”
 - How?
 - Understanding Jesus is your Savior and Lord
 - Understanding it is God’s will for you to learn to walk in this freedom
 - Understanding God will lead you to and through this freedom by revealing His truth to you and about you
 - Understanding it is what you do with His revealed truth that will lead you to a life of freedom

Scripture

- **Mark 4:21-25 NLT**, 21 Then Jesus asked them, “Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. 22 For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. 23 Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”
 - 24 Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. 25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- Jesus has been sowing His seeds of truth about Himself and the Kingdom of God
 - So, how was he being received?
 - **Mark 3:20-21 NIV**, 20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”
 - **Mark 3:22 NIV**, And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- They were piling up sin upon sin by understanding what Jesus was saying yet rejecting it
 - Temporarily by some in His family
 - Rocky and thorny heart-soil
 - More permanent from the teachers of the law
 - Hard packed, stubborn heart-soil

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- Jesus interpreted the soils parable for His followers that desired to understand it
 - **Mark 4:11 NIV**, 11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables”
 - Then warning them to be careful how they handle revealed truth from God
- There is to be a shining, seeking, and preserving aspect of God’s truth in your life

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- Jesus in the wilderness temptation had Satan's voice calling out to Him in His weakened physical state
 - "Your Father does not love you"
 - "Prove your Father's word is true"
 - "There is an easier way to get what you desire than what you Father has planned"
 - And in each case, it was the wisdom found in God's Word held off the attack when Jesus said, "It is written"

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- There are voices that live in the shadows and corners of your life calling out to you
 - “You know you are too weak”
 - “You know God doesn't really love you”
 - “You know you will never really change”
 - “You know you can't be totally saved because I'm still here”

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- There are voices that reside behind forever closed doors that leak
 - “How can a failure like you ever find freedom?”
 - “Look at the lives you have hurt”
 - “Just think what the church members would say if they found out about this”
 - “You know you can't be totally saved because I'm still here”

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- Jesus is instructing us to take the truth of God's Word and place it on the lampstand in our lives to reveal every hidden corner, voice
 - It is silly to bring a lamp into a dark room and put it under the bed blocking what it could reveal
 - Or to put it on the lampstand but then put a basket over it
 - It will not accomplish the desired result of illumination
 - Let the light show you the truth of what is lurking in the corners so you can spread the disinfectant of God's truth over it
 - Imagine walking into a dark barn full of things to trip you and who know what lurking in the corners

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- You need God's light to guide your steps
 - **Psalm 119:105 NIV**, Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
 - Let God's voice identify all the other voices in your life that are hindering your spiritual freedom
 - Stop the "Yes, but" of our lives

Will you allow God's wisdom to silence all the other voices that are stripping you of His total freedom in Christ Jesus

- What does the truth of God's Word have to say to those voices?
- Which one will you listen to or allow to have dominance over your thought life?
- Is Jesus Lord of every area of your life or are there some fractional parts still calling out to you?

Will you seek to grasp the deeper movements of God's wisdom in your life?

- **Vs. 24**, Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more. 25 To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given."
 - **NIV**, Carefully consider
 - **YLT**, Take heed
 - Greek - Notice carefully, be ready to learn, be prepared to respond appropriately

Will you seek to grasp the deeper movements of God's wisdom in your life?

- **Mark 12:24 NIV**, Jesus replied, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"
 - **MSG**, Jesus said, "You're way off base, and here's why: One, you don't know what God said; two, you don't know how God works."

Will you seek to grasp the deeper movements of God's wisdom in your life?

- **Psalm 119:130 NIV**, The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.
 - The Son of God born in human form and placed in a manger
 - Knowing just this provides little in spiritual understanding and guidance in living
 - We need to ask ourselves some questions?
 - Why did He come?
 - How will knowing this provide me with living truths?

Will you seek to grasp the deeper movements of God's wisdom in your life?

- **John 16:13 NIV**, But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
 - To give them guidance about how they can live their lives in the freedom God has given us
- **Romans 11:33 NIV**, Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

Will you preserve the wisdom God has blessed you with?

- **Vs. 25,** But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.
 - Preserve what God has shown you or it will slowly drain away from any impact on your life
 - **Judges 8:33-34 NIV,** 33 No sooner had Gideon died than the Israelites again prostituted themselves to the Baals. They set up Baal-Berith as their god 34 and did not remember the Lord their God, who had rescued them from the hands of all their enemies on every side.

Will you preserve the wisdom God has blessed you with?

- Jeanette Hu in Psychology Today wrote on the subject - Hidden Dangers Behind “One Drink Won't Hurt” for recovering alcoholics
 - Euphoric recall distorts memories, making alcohol seem more appealing than it truly is
 - The fading effect bias causes us to forget the negative consequences of drinking faster than the positives
 - A false sense of control often leads to risky situations, increasing the likelihood of relapse
 - Understanding these cognitive biases can help maintain sobriety and prevent the cycle of relapse
 - In other words, “preserve wisdom”

Will you preserve the wisdom God has blessed you with?

- **Proverbs 4:6 NIV**, Do not forsake (*abandon, walk away from, let loose of*) wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.
 - Look at the life of Adam and Eve
 - Look at the life of Judas
 - The Church at Ephesus
 - **Revelation 2:4-5 NIV**, Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Will you preserve the wisdom God has blessed you with?

- **Colossians 3:16 ESV**, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
 - **MSG**, Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives.

Shine, Seek, Preserve

- **Proverbs 2:1-8 NIV**, My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
 - 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

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