

“HE CLOSED THE BOOK”

LUKE 4:19

INTRODUCTION

I WANT TO CONTINUE THIS LOOK INTO LUKE THE FOURTH CHAPTER. AS I EXPLAINED AT THE 7:45 A.M. SERVICES, THIS IS NOT JUST A “TICKLE THE EAR” EXPERIENCE, BUT THIS IS A PASTORAL SERMON, WHICH WILL FOCUS IN ON WHAT THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD HAS TO SAY TO HIS CHURCH.

THIS MORNING, WE TALKED ABOUT “HE OPENED THE BOOK.” DURING THIS SERVICE, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT “HE CLOSED THE BOOK.”

IT’S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO UNDERSTAND THAT READING, STUDYING AND INTERACTING WITH THE WORD OF GOD IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE BELIEVER.

IT IS A COMPONENT TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE AS BELIEVERS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH IS FOUND IN GOD’S OTHER CREATIONS.

- 1. THE SEA IS DEPENDENT UPON RAIN.**
- 2. THE RAIN IS DEPENDENT UPON CLOUDS.**
- 3. THE CLOUDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON COLD TEMPERATURES.**
- 4. BIRDS NEED AIR.**
- 5. FISH NEED WATER.**
- 6. WORMS NEED THE GROUND.**
- 7. AND BELIEVERS NEED THE WORD OF GOD.**

YOU MAY BE DRESSED “TO THE NINES” THIS MORNING BUT YOU ARE NOT COMPLETELY DRESSED WITHOUT THE WORD.

YOU MAY WEAR SEAN JEAN OR CHANEL BUT UNTIL THE WORD OF GOD IS IN YOUR HEART YOU ARE NOT COMPLETE.

YOU CAN WEAR A HICKEY FREEMAN SUIT AND STACEY ADAMS SHOES, BUT WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD YOU ARE JUST ALL DRESSED UP WITH NO WHERE TO GO.

THERE IS A STEP THAT GOES BEYOND JUST HANDLING AND TOUCHING THE WORD OF GOD.

- 1. HOLDING A BIBLE IS JUST STEP ONE IN MOVING TOWARD YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.**
- 2. ANYBODY CAN HOLD A BIBLE.**
- 3. ANYBODY CAN GRIP A BIBLE.**
- 4. ANYBODY CAN LOOK AT THE WORDS AND ADMIRE THE STYLE OF THE TEXT.**
- 5. ANYBODY CAN READ THE WORDS OUT LOUD AND MAKE THEM SOUND SO PROFOUND AND PROLIFIC –**
- 6. BUT TOUCHING AND READING THE WORD IS NOT THE ENDPOINT, THE WORD HAS TO GO FROM READING AND HEARING TO APPLYING AND FUNCTIONING!**

SPIRITUALLY, WE’VE GOT TO MOVE THE WORD OF GOD OFF OF THE PAGES OF THE TEXT, WHERE IT’S CONFINED IN PARAGRAPHS, CHAPTERS, HOMILIES, PSALMS, SPIRITUAL SAYINGS, AND PROVERBS, AND THEN TRANSFER IT TO OUR LIVES, SPECIFICALLY TO THE HEART AND APPLY IT SO THAT WE CAN LIVE THE TYPE OF LIVES THAT GOD WILL BE PROUD OF AND PLEASED WITH.

ILLUSTRATION

I'M REMINDED OF A STORY OF A PULPIT COMMITTEE THAT WAS LOOKING FOR A PASTOR, AND THEY NARROWED IT DOWN TO TWO MINISTERS.

ONE WAS YOUNG, GOOD-LOOKING, NATURALLY CURLY HAIR, HARVARD EDUCATED, AND THE OTHER WAS AN OLDER, BROKE DOWN LOOKING, RUSTED HAND, FIELD LABORER.

THE PULPIT COMMITTEE COULDN'T MAKE UP THEIR MINDS AND THEY RECOMMENDED BOTH MEN TO THE CHURCH, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED TO READ THE 23RD PSALM TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

BOTH MEN WERE IN THE PASTOR'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG ONE WENT FIRST AND HE CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE BY READING AND TRANSLATING THE PASSING FROM CLASSICAL HEBREW TO LATIN AND THEN INTO ENGLISH.

HE WENT BACK TO THE STUDY AS THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDED AND SAID, "OLD TIMER, DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, IT'S ALREADY IN THE BAG."

THEY THEN CALLED FOR THE OLDER MINISTER, WHO DIDN'T USE A SCRIPT OR AN OUTLINE, BUT SIMPLY BEGAN, "THE LORD IS ... MY SHEPHERD AND... I SHALL NOT WANT."

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE PULPIT COMMITTEE CALLED THEM BOTH INTO THE SANCTUARY AND SAID "WE THANK YOU BOTH BUT WE'VE MADE UP OUR MINDS AND WE'RE ASKING THAT REVEREND..."

THEN THE YOUNG PREACHER JUMPED UP AND SAID THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE.

THE PULPIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAID, “REVEREND, YOU DIDN’T WIN – WE’VE SELECTED THE OTHER PREACHER.”

THE YOUNG PREACHER GOT MAD AND SAID HOW CAN YOU CALL THIS PREACHER WITH THE DIRTY SHOES AND THE RAGGED SUIT AND THE ASHY HANDS?

ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE SAID REVEREND, YOU READ PSALM 23 REALLY NICE ABOUT THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD. BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO US THAT THE OLD MAN KNOWS THE SHEPHERD!

TRANSFER BACK TO THE MESSAGE

THERE HAS TO BE A SPIRITUAL TRANSLATION – NOT JUST A VERBAL TRANSLATION OF THE WORDS OF THE TEXT INTO YOUR HEART!

IT HAS TO BE SUCH A PART OF YOU THAT IT’S HARD TO DETERMINE WHERE YOU END AND THE WORD BEGINS!

DURING THE 7:45 SERVICE WE FOUND OUT THAT NORMALLY, AN ATTENDANT WOULD OPEN WHAT THE KING JAMES’ VERSION DESCRIBES AS “THE BOOK” .

HOWEVER IN GREEK, IT’S NOT JUST A BOOK BUT IT’S LITERALLY A SCROLL.

WITH THE SACRED WRITING BEING ANTIQUITY, THEY WERE WRITTEN ON SKINS OF PARCHMENT, AND THEN ROLLED ONTO TWO ROLLERS.

THEY BEGAN ON EACH END, SO THAT IN READING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, THEY ROLLS WITH THE LEFT HAND WHILE THEY ROLLED ON WITH THE RIGHT.

JESUS READS FROM A PASSAGE FROM ISAIAH AND LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS READ:

“THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED.”

AFTER READING THE SACRED TEXT, JESUS THEN CLOSES THE BOOK.

NOW, THIS IS NOT BECAUSE THE LORD WAS TIRED OR BECAUSE THE LORD COULDN'T READ ANY FURTHER.

HE CLOSED THE BOOK BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE IS A TIME TO READ AND A TIME TO STUDY.

READING THE WORD IS DECIDELY DIFFERENT FROM STUDYING THE WORD.

READING THE WORD CAN BE A PASSAGE, A PHRASE, A SECTION, A CHAPTER OR EVENT A BOOK.

IN ORDER TO GROW, YOU NEED TO READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY AS PART OF YOUR TIME WITH GOD, YOUR DEVOTIONS OR QUIET TIME.

DURING THIS DAILY TIME WITH GOD, I RECOMMEND PRAYER, WIDE BIBLE READING, PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, CONFESSION, AND MEDITATION.

THESE ARE WAYS TO REACH OUT TO GOD WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

BIBLE READING IS ONE WAY OF LETTING GOD REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT AND SPEAK TO YOUR MIND.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO LEARN THE BIBLE, I RECOMMEND THAT YOU READ BROADLY RATHER THAN NARROWLY.

A ONE-VERSE DEVOTIONAL MAY BE QUICK, BUT IT WON'T REALLY HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE.

STUDYING THE WORD IS GOING TO TAKE SOME WORK.

NOTICE THAT JESUS CLOSED THE BOOK BUT HE WENT FROM A READING SESSION TO A BIBLE STUDY!

BIBLE STUDY INVOLVES AN ANALYSIS OF A PASSAGE, TO LOOK AT WHAT GOD IS SAYING;

NOT JUST A SNIPPET BUT ALSO AN ENTIRE PORTION OF THE TEXT, AND THEN YOU CAN APPLY THE TRUTHS TO YOUR OWN LIFE!

WHEN JESUS CLOSED THE BOOK AFTER READING THE PASSAGE HE SAT DOWN!

IT WAS THE CUSTOMARY POSTURE OF A TEACHER TO BE SEATED WHEN INSTRUCTING HIS DISCIPLES.

AFTER JESUS RETURNED THE SCROLL TO THE ATTENDANT, HE SAT DOWN ON THE PLATFORM INSTEAD OF GOING BACK INTO THE CONGREGATION, BECAUSE HE WISHED TO ADDRESS THE PEOPLE.

THE EYES OF EVERYONE IN THE ROOM WERE GLUED TO THE LORD.

THAT LETS ME KNOW THAT BEFORE I CAN APPLY THE WORD TO MY SITUATION, I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY EYES ON JESUS!

I SAW SOMETHING INTERESTING AT THE CAIRO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

THERE WAS A BROTHER THERE WITH TWO CELL PHONES GOING WHILE I WAS GIVING THE BACULAURATE ADDRESS.

HE WAS TEXTING AND HOLDING AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT CONVERSATIONS AT THE SAME TIME.

1. HE DIDN'T HEAR ME SAY SAY THAT THERE ARE MORE BLACK MEN IN PRISON THAN IN COLLEGE;
2. HE DIDN'T HEAR ME SAY THAT EVERY TIME A YOUNG PERSON GRADUATES FROM COLLEGE, THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT RISES;
3. HE DIDN'T HEAR ME SAY THAT EDUCATION WILL OPEN DOORS FOR YOU.

THE REASON WHY IS THAT HE WAS DISTRACTED AND SOME PEOPLE ARE DISTRACTED FROM THE WORD OF GOD!

1. THEY'RE TOO BUSY SCHEMING.
2. THEY'RE TOO BUSY WITH THEIR TOYS.
3. THEY'RE TOO BUSY GOSSIPING.
4. THEY'RE TOO BUSY GETTING INTO SOMEBODY'S BUSINESS.
5. THEY'RE TOO BUSY PLOTTING AND PLANNING.
6. THEY'RE TOO BUSY COMPLAINING AND FUSSING.
7. THEY'RE TOO BUSY WORRIED ABOUT THINGS THEY CAN'T FIX.

LISTEN, IF YOU'RE GOING TO STUDY GOD'S WORD, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES, TURN OFF THE TELEVISION, GET AWAY FROM YOUR ROUTINE -

AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALLOW ME TO RECOMMEND THAT YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE AND COME TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!

COME TO THE PLACE WHERE GOD'S PRESENCE IS FELT,

COME TO THE PLACE WHERE HIS PEOPLE COME TO LEARN, AND BE BLESSED!

COME TO BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL RIGHT HERE!

**AFTER JESUS SAT DOWN AND ALL EYES WERE ON HIM
THEN HE OPENED UP HIS MOUTH AND GAVE THEM THE
EXPLANATION OF THE WORD BY SAYING THE WORD IS
FULFILLED IN YOUR EARS!**

**LOOK AT JESUS' GRAMMAR HERE, "THE WORD IS
FULFILLED IN YOUR EARS."**

**THAT WORD "FULFILLED" IS A GREEK WORD, WHICH
DRAWS A PICTURE TO ACHIEVE OR REALIZE SOMETHING
THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR OR SOMETHING THAT'S
BEEN PROMISED TO YOU!**

**THAT'S THE RESULT OF STUDYING – WHEN YOU FINALLY
GET IT! WHEN THE LIGHT COMES ON! WHEN THE LORD
OPENS UP YOUR MIND AND YOU CAN SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!**

**IT WAS A MOST AMAZING STATEMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF
NAZARETH WERE QUICK TO SEE THE MESSIANIC CLAIM
INVOLVED.**

**JESUS COULD ONLY MEAN THAT THE REAL YEAR OF
JUBILEE HAD COME;**

**THAT THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF ISAIAH HAD COME
TRUE TODAY;**

AND THAT IN HIM THEY SAW THE MESSIAH OF PROPHECY.

**THE WORDS WERE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE AND TO BE
SPOKEN HERE AT NAZARETH BY ONE OF THEIR OWN
TOWNSMEN!**

- 1. THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED A MESSIAH!**
- 2. THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED A DELIVERER!**
- 3. THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED A KING OF KINGS!**

4. **THEY HAD BEEN PROMISED A LORD OF LORDS!**

**THE LORD IS NO LONGER PROMISED – HE’S ALREADY HERE,
LIVE AND IN LIVING COLOR!**

CONCLUSION

**THE APPLICATION IS THAT THE LORD IS HERE! I’M NOT
GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT ON HIS COMING! HE’S HERE!**

1. **THE PROMISE IS HERE - HE’S WRAPPED UP IN FLESH!**
2. **THE PROMISE IS HERE - HE’S SEATED AT THE TEACHER’S CHAIR!**
3. **THE PROMISE IS HERE - HE’S SPEAKING WORDS OF WISDOM!**
4. **THE PROMISE IS HERE - HE’S MOVING IN AUTHORITY!**

WHEN YOU STUDY HIS WORD, YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT THE LORD!

1. **I’VE LEARNED HOW TO TRUST HIM!**
2. **I’VE LEARNED HOW TO OBEY HIM!**
3. **I’VE LEARNED HOW TO LOOK TO HIM!**
4. **I’VE LEARNED THAT I CAN’T DO THIS BY MYSELF!**
5. **I’VE LEARNED THAT HE IS MY SAVIOR!**
6. **I’VE LEARNED THAT HE’S ABLE!**
7. **I’VE LEARNED THAT HE CAN BE TRUSTED.**

- 8. I'M GOING TO APPLY IT - WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT HIM!**
- 9. I'M GOING TO APPLY IT - SO WHEN TROUBLE COMES I CAN GO TO THE ROCK!**
- 10. I'M GOING TO APPLY IT - SO WHEN TRIALS COME I CAN STILL PRAISE THE LORD!**
- 11. I'M GOING TO APPLY IT – SO WHEN THE STORMS RISE, I WON'T BE DEFEATED!**