

Victory of the Lamb – June 24, 2018 – Unshakeable

Luke 10:38-42 - A Perfect Place – Pastor Bill Limmer

I did some great reading this past week. I was reading this one magazine and it basically said that I can be a body builder. And I have been thinking that if I get a little stronger it will help my running out. And know I am told that if I put the time and the effort into it I can be a body builder. So what would you say if I told you this afternoon after church I am going to move out to Venice Beach and I am going to become a body builder? Some responses might be: You're crazy. Good luck with that. This should be good, send pictures. The truth is right, I don't have the ability to be a body builder. I am never going to look like this. (picture of a body builder with my head on him).

All of us have some skills. And we have different skill sets. But one skill we all need is the skill of knowing what is important, valuable, what matters versus what is not. Raise your hand if you in one way another at least implied sometime this past week that you were busy. We are all busy. You can't do everything. God doesn't expect you to do everything but we do need to put first things first, so we are sure we do the first things, the important, valuable, things that matter or we won't do them.

I did some reading this week and I want to share with you some of it. Luke 10:38-42 **As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.** ³⁹**She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.** ⁴⁰**But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"**⁴¹**"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,** ⁴²**but few things are needed—or indeed only one.**⁴³ **Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.** Martha was busy. She was stressed out, overwhelmed. She could have gone for an extra set of hands and an extra hour of time. I bet you can relate to Martha. Some of you are so tired that you would love an extra hour of the day to get some sleep but truth be told if there were an extra hour you would just try to do more. There is work, grocery shopping, soccer practice, supper to make, email to return, phone calls to make, the house to clean, bills to pay, relationships, obligations, the van needs gas, the car needs to go in for repairs, exercise, tv shows and movies you want to watch, games you want to play, grass needs mowing, Summerfest, fourth of July, elderly parents to take care of, guilt, stress, doing the right things, and on and on. You feel guilty if you have margin in your life.

On his desktop Rick has four folders: Things God Wants me to do Thing People I love need me to do Things I want to do Everything other people want me to do. So who is going to get first crack with you? Keep in mind I am not asking who has in the past. I'm not asking you to go down a guilt trip highway. I am asking you to think about this because it is a question as to who is going to be the authority in your life. Three basic choices: Me, The World, God. You have probably heard, "follow your heart" and "trust your gut." Well Jeremiah 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?** – Deceitful means to lead in the wrong direction. Proverbs 16:25 **There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.** Following our heart is not a great option. Here is a solution to that: Proverbs 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;**

The World – what everybody else considers important must be important. Here are three things the world thinks is important – looking good (appearance), happiness (feeling good), and having the good

(materialism). Not too many of us are happy all the time, not too many of us are glamour models, not too many of us have it all. And even if we were - Mark 8:36 **What good is it if man gains the whole world and yet forfeits his soul.**

The third option is God. So who is going to be your authority? This is a great question for life long Christians and for everyone else too.

Luke 10:39 **Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.** Think of one of the most beautiful settings you have been too. A place where you say, "I love this place." What are the colors that you see is it maybe the orange and pink and purple of a sunset, blue waters with maybe a reflection of a snow capped mountain on it, maybe green trees. What does it look like? Are there any sounds associated with this beautiful setting. Birds chirping, waters rushing, leaves rustling? Mary found a beautiful place and a beautiful sound. She was at the feet of her Savior. Have you been there? Have you heard him? If you have, you know it is so refreshing, so cool, so comforting, so needed.

Voice recognition - There are certain people in your life whose voice you could recognize anywhere. For most people, you could be in a crowded mall, but if your mom calls you by your full name from across the room, your ear is going to pick up the sound immediately. You wouldn't be able to do that same trick with someone you just met. It took years of being around that voice and becoming familiar with it in order to do always recognize it. I think it was last summer sometime when Jacky and I went to Pic-n-Sav just to grab an item or two late at night. When we were on the way to the self check out lines, I wanted to go get something else. Probably the cheap donuts in the back right on the cart – not that I would know where they are at. Well as I turned to make my way to Jacky, I saw where she was at, or thought I did. And I ended up going up to another woman ready to lay my donuts down for her to scan when I hear Jacky say, "Bill." Oops wrong line. Voice recognition. Do you recognize God's voice? Do you know you can learn to recognize God's voice? It is a voice that is calling to you whether you are a life long Christian or whether you are not a Christ follower.

If you want to hear and recognize God's voice in your life, you've got to spend time with him. The best way to know what God sounds like is to read his word. The Bible is his word. It's breathed out by God. The more time you spend with scripture the easier it will be to spot God's voice. I love to hear my Savior's voice. I need to hear my Savior's voice. This week I was spending time with God in the book of Hosea. Here is a verse from the book. Hosea 11:7 **My people are determined to turn from me. . .⁸"How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. ⁹I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man— the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities.** What does this say? God's people had turned away from them. The just thing to do was to punish them. But God was filled with compassion for them and so he did not give them what they deserved. He gave them grace instead. In the story, Hosea married a woman with an unfortunate name – Gomer, who had a more even unfortunate profession. She was a prostitute. And she went out and sold herself off to others. God told Hosea to go and buy back his wife. What does that have to do with you and me? Every time we sin, we are turning away from God. We are determining that someone or something is more important than God. We are prostituting ourselves. Yet God goes out and buys us back through the perfect life and innocent death of Jesus. That is why we call him our Savior.

God wants us to spend time with him. I talked with a number of people this week about when they have, if they have, God time. Just them and God and his word- listening to God. Everyone, I talked to said in the morning. Now I am not sure, that everybody does it in the morning, I'm just saying the guys I talked to said the morning. Here is the thing when it comes to being with God and his word – you need to decide the time and the place. You need to decide the when and the where or you won't go there.

And here are some things I find helpful when I am going to meet God with my cup of morning coffee. An attitude of gratitude and joy for God's Word. True story: There was a dedication ceremony for a *Wanca Quechua* translation of the New Testament in Peru. People at the ceremony were weeping because they were able to read a Bible in their own language for the first time. They had a parade that wound for miles through the streets of the capital city. I was deeply humbled by their appreciation of the Bible and have never looked at the many Bibles on my shelves and devices the same again.

A dependence on the Holy Spirit. Atheists can understand the meaning of the Bible. Even demons can have a highly accurate theology. James tells us that demons are card-carrying monotheists (James 2:19). So, there must be a kind of accurate knowledge that does not necessarily lead to God-honoring adoration, worship, and obedience. The key difference is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who brings us to faith and one who lead us to Christ-like character. The illumining work of the Holy Spirit is the indispensable factor in knowing truth that leads to a growing life in Christ. Therefore, as we go to God's Word a good prayer is, "Open the eyes of my heart I want to see you." And as that happens we are transformed.

I want to invite you into the next step of reading God's Word this week. And here is a way to do it: This past week Sarah Schindler shared with me the idea of sketching in place of hand written notes. (Picture



of it) I think this is going to change the way I do a lot of things. What if you sketched what you read? A lot of us as little kids had picture Bible. How about making your own picture Bible, sketching what you read? And make your own picture Bible This week I would love for you to join in on sketching. You can, if you like, involve your whole family, kids, grandkids, and feel free to share on social media. Have fun this week. Here are the verses we will be sharing on FB John 10:1-11, Matthew 11:28-30, Matthew 6:25-34, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 17:11-19. Jump into the Bible draw some pictures. Make a family thing and have the kids draw too. Feel free to share on line and tag me if you don't mind. It will make a difference. So decide on a when and where so you go there. And when you get there because Jesus and his grace is there, this is what you will end up saying, "I love this place."