Your Greatest Priority

Luke 10:38-42

Pastor Ron Prosise
April 25, 2010
Shepherd's Community Church

Heavenly Privilege (38-39)

(Luke 18:13; 6:47; 8:21; John 11:1, 32; 12:3; 6:63; 15:7; Romans 10:14, 17; Matthew 4:4)

Earthly Distraction (40-42)

(Revelation 2:1-4; Psalm 103:8; 119:56; 84:10; Job 23:12; Matthew 13:22; 5:3-6; Mark 9:7; Lamentations 3:20)

Seeking God through His Word

They shall all be taught by God. John 6:45

It is the promised privilege of all Christians to be taught by God, and it is the Spirit of God who teaches them. The Spirit who taught all things to the apostles is the anointing that teaches all Christ's people (1 John 2:27)—not by fresh disclosures of hitherto unknown truth, but by enabling us to recognize the divinity and bow to the authority of divine realities set before us.

But are we open to this working of the Spirit? As long as we approach the Scriptures with detachment, concerned only to appreciate them historically or aesthetically, and as long as we treat them merely as a human record, we scarcely are. We are only open to the Spirit's ministry to the degree we are willing to step inside the Bible and take our stand with the men to whom God spoke—Abraham listening to God in Ur, Moses listening to God at Sinai, the Israelites listening to God's Word from the lips of Moses and the prophets, the Jesus listening to Jesus, the Romans and Corinthians and Timothy listening to Paul and so on—and to share joint tutorials with them, noting what God said to them and then seeking to see in the light of that, what he would say to us.

Most of us are not that willing—we are prejudiced, lazy, and unprepared for the exercise of spirit and conscience that it involves. But greater willingness and increased receptiveness are themselves the Spirit's gifts. Therefore we must use the prayer, "Teach me thy statutes" (Psalm 119:12), as a plea not only for teaching for teachableness.

How much am I prepared to work at and pray for an understanding of the Bible?

Lord, may your Spirit direct my imagination so that through this gift of yours I can understand your word better.

J. I. Packer, *Your Father Loves You, Daily Insights for Knowing God*, November 9

Verse for memorization and prayer this week *(clip and tape on your bathroom mirror)*

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

Psalm 119:10