

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Sharpening Your Sword Series, Lesson 37

Lesson Title: How Do We Use The Bible: Often

Take Home Point: We learn to love God's word by reading it often.

Warm-Up:

Suppose you are a member of a military unit responsible to maintain communications between headquarters and the soldiers on the front line. You have been given all the best equipment, you have gone through the school to learn your job, plus you are issued all the training manuals and have access to experienced personnel. You know that your role is a key part of a larger team, and the job you are assigned is critical to the success of the mission. However, your time is taken with other activities that you believe are more important, so you decide not to read the manuals or learn from the experts or train on using the equipment. When it's time for battle, will you be able to fight? Will you be ready to win? Do you think you will have time in the heat of battle to stop all the action and scan the manuals in the hope you will be ready in a moment? How will you know what to do?

Read: Joshua 1:7-8; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 45-46

Observation (What happened?):

According to the Joshua verses, what preceded the Israelites being prosperous and successful?

What was the merchant willing to give up to get the one great pearl?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why doesn't the word of God always have full effect?

What do you think Jesus meant by "the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew 13:45?

Insight:

In our celebrity culture today, there are many messages competing for our attention and allegiance. Popular entertainers offer enticing beliefs that strike a chord with people who want a comfortable spirituality that does not demand life change or submission to God. Even popular religious personalities offer ideas that sound good and reasonable to a Biblically illiterate person. Satan's guile is very subtle; he knows the closer the lies are to the truth without really being the truth, the harder it is to distinguish between the two. That's why it is so important to really know God's word – not just what it says but why, and how we can apply it to living every day. This requires being in the Bible every day, studying it, memorizing it, thinking about what it means, and being aware of our spiritual warfare so we are not tricked by lies. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 to get God's perspective for us.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How much time do you take every day to read and learn God's word? If you don't spend time in it every day, make a commitment to God to start today.

When is the last time you read the Bible all the way through? Find one of the methods available and commit to do so.

Kingdom Quest year 2