

Life Group Notes 6/25/2023
Pastor Mark Warren I Had a Dream

[If you have observations or questions feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.-Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to facilitate discussion and to discern the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Pastor Mark has raised this week, 6/25. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** Do not be daunted by the number of pages. As an editorial decision, I include each of the passages mentioned in full to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes, rather than having you, the reader, look up each reference. If your Bible is open beside you, you can transfer and annotate from these pages with ease. This week has several footnotes on people and principles in the history of the church. Footnotes are not meant to distract, but enhance the reading, and to help find answers to questions that arise. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On Joel and Peter and the Acts 2 outpouring.](#)
2. [On frogs in boiling water.](#)

***Please **Note:** At the very end, I've included passages that were mentioned for SOAP journaling and further study during the week. ***

Pastor Mark began by preparing us to hear a dream he had, but before the dream, he read a prophecy that one had given him after the service last week. Here is the prophecy for you to examine: He read, "I give you My heart, all of you. Will you give Me your heart? This is what the Lord is saying. I want you all...I want you all...I want you to want Me. Will you lay down all of your trinkets? ...all of the things you consume? Will you lay all of your trifles at My altar? Take up the cross and follow Me. I'm calling you to holiness, to be holy, to be set apart for My service. Come to Me and drink of My River of Life. I pour out this River like a fountain for you. You are My children, and My children are carriers of My presence to be bold; and I go before you. I am behind you. I hold you in My hands. And if you will surrender to Me, lay down your life, I will fill it." He says, I believe that God is encouraging us to take this time to wake up.

1. What do you see? What do you hear? What has God been telling you?

2. Look at the prophecy again. We are called to judge the words we hear. What is your response?
3. Have you been feeling the same urgency lately? How important are these times?

Pastor Mark recounted his dream: "This dream had a boat that was traveling through the sky at the height a little lower than an airplane would. In this boat, I recognized a person, and I was standing with two other people who really cared about the person in this boat. And all of a sudden riding in this boat we see some other people riding in the back of the boat, and this person dives off this boat. I thought he was falling out of the boat. My heart leapt into my throat in my dream, and the person fell to the ground to his death. The two people who were there did not respond, and I cried, 'Are you not concerned? He just fell to his death. What's happening? I can't believe that just happened' and the people were dazed, but not even showing any emotion or even awareness, yet they watched the very thing that had taken place. So, I woke up this morning and I asked the Lord, 'Was that just a crazy dream? Was that a God dream? What was that?' I feel like the Lord was saying, 'That boat should have been in water, but it was in the sky. The person who fell probably thought the boat was in water and was going to dive off the boat into water, and they didn't realize that they were actually diving off the boat to their death. Instead of doing something playful and enjoyable, it ended up in their demise.' And I said, 'What is that, Lord? And what of the reaction of the two people who really cared and yet had that dazed look?' and He said, 'People are not aware of the dangers that are around us. You're just cruising through life being playful and the situations are life and death.'"

Mark evoked the scenario of the frog in the pot ([See footnote 2 below](#)), and said, "I knew these people who were standing beside me in my dream, with the dazed look. They are solid Christians, yet they did not have any reaction or show any emotion. I believe the Lord is saying, "It is time to wake up from our slumber. We need to keep very short accounts with ourselves. During worship, the Lord brought back to me the parable of the ten virgins from Matthew 25: [1](#)"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. [2](#)Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3](#)The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take along any extra oil. [4](#)But the wise ones took oil in flasks along with their lamps. [5](#)When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

[6](#)At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

[7](#)Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8](#)The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

[9](#)'No,' said the wise ones, 'or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

[10](#)But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

[11](#)Later the other virgins arrived and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'

[12](#)But he replied, 'Truly I tell you; I do not know you.'

[13](#)Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

1. What do you see?

2. What do the ten virgins all have in common?
3. Are there any non-virgins among the virgins? Did any stay awake? How many have lamps? How many have vessels in which to store oil?
4. Why ten virgins? Whom do they represent? How many members does the Bride of Christ have?
5. Peter says the Church is made of living stones. Explain.
6. How many foolish members does the bride of Christ have?
7. What do lamps do?
8. What does the oil do? Of what value is the lamp without oil?
9. How does one attain oil?
10. Can I buy your oil for you? Why not?
11. Who is expected to provide the light at the wedding?
12. Why can good Christian virgins not share their abundance of oil?
13. When must one purchase oil? What if we do not purchase that oil in a timely manner?
14. What is the point of the parable? Who is responsible for the oil they have? How much oil do you have? Can your light be lit to light the Wedding?
15. How important is it to be prepared? What do we know? What do we not know?

Look up 2 Timothy 3: 1But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. 2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!

6They are the kind who worm their way into households and captivate vulnerable women who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, 7who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1. Are these Christian? Do you know any? Did you turn away from them?
2. Does this passage hit home?
3. How much oil is in their lamp?

Look up Romans 1: 24Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity for the dishonoring of their bodies with one another. 25They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is forever worthy of praise! Amen.

26For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27Likewise, the men abandoned natural relations with women and burned with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28Furthermore, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed, and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, 30slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant, and boastful. They invent new forms of evil; they disobey their parents. 31They are senseless, faithless, heartless, merciless.

32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things are worthy of death, they not only continue to do these things, but also approve of those who practice them.

1. How do these evil doers resemble the ones above in 2 Timothy 3? List the traits repeated in each passage.
2. What does this passage say of the days we are living in?
3. How does one buy oil?

Pastor Mark says, "My concern is, as our culture continues to erode, and as the foundations of what our nation was founded on, of faith and righteousness and justice have turned so that, as the Bible forewarns, we are calling right wrong and wrong right."

1. Are we taking on the world and saying, "Well, that's just the way it is?"
2. What do you think? What is the prophecy Mark read calling us to?
3. Can you define holiness? How different are we to be? In what sense "different?"

Look up Romans 12: **1** Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

1. Contrast Paul's exhortation here to the way he describes the world in the above passages?
2. How are we to be different? To what extent different?
3. How do you "renew your mind?" Do you have a testimony? Why is the renewing of your mind transforming?
4. Pastor Mark says you renew your mind by staying close to Jesus. Explain.
5. Jesus said, "If you abide in my Word, you are my disciples indeed. You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." Explain in terms of "renewing your mind."
6. How do you "prove" or "test" what is the good and pleasing perfect will of God?
7. What are the health benefits of acting according to the will of God?
8. Pastor Mark says, "What you consume (in your food, your entertainment, your pastimes), you become. If you want to become more like Jesus, spend more time in His Word. Spend time with Him. Pray. Explain. Do you have a testimony?"
9. Psalm 16:11 says, "In your presence is fullness of joy." How is this an answer to all of Satan's attacks? Do you need joy?
10. There's a Charismatic chorus that went like this: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus/Look full in His wonderful face/And the things on earth will grow strangely dim/in the Light of His Glory and Grace." Do you know it? Can you sing it? How does this work?

Mark says, "And here's what the enemy is doing: Robbing, killing, stealing and destroying."

What is our response? Are we seeing the danger all around us? Do we consider it danger? Or do we accept it? How about you?

1. What are the biggest dangers?
2. What are big dangers?
3. What dangers can we ignore?
4. Have our senses been dulled? How?

5. Pastor Mark says, "When we pursue Him, there is joy and there is life, there is abundance and fruit of that Spirit that abides in us." Can our senses be revived?
6. What happens if we become like the world around us? What happens to our supply of oil? Can we even be light? What happens to our preparedness?

Look up Ephesians 6: 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1. Do you find yourself battling people more? Or are you looking for ways to penetrate the darkness that surrounds us?
2. Quick inventory, where 0 is Frustration, and 10 is Readiness and Peace to face what's ahead: What number do you give yourself?
3. What are the enemies' strategies? What tools are they using?
4. What penetrates darkness? Why do we need oil today?
5. Who is the light of the world? Who else is the light of the world? What do you think? Does your light so shine before men that they see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven?

Look up 2 Corinthians 10: 3 For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. **4** The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5** We tear down arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1. Does this describe how you fight?
2. What are these weapons?
3. Who is on your side?
4. What are the strongholds that hold our neighbors captive?
5. In your experiences, what presumptions are you aware of that have been set up to withstand the knowledge of God?
6. How are these strongholds torn down? Do you have a testimony?

Look up James 4: 4 You adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world renders himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think the Scripture says without reason that the Spirit He caused to dwell in us yearns with envy? **6** But He gives us more grace. This is why it says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1. What does this make you think?
2. What does friendship with the world look like?
3. If the Spirit wars with the flesh, what is winning in your home? What strongholds hold you captive?
4. Look at verse 6. How encouraging is this?
5. Mark says, "Consume the Bible...spend time. His voice sounds a lot like His Word." Explain.

Look at 1 Timothy 6: **11** But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession before many witnesses. **What is the alternative to what the world offers?**

Review from above, what weapons do we have to “fight the good fight of the faith?” Think: What happens if you don’t flee? What happens if you do not pursue? What makes this a “good” fight? Look at question five above. Is consuming the Bible and pursuing the good things listed the same?

1. Is a Christian walking into Walmart different from a non-Christian walking into Walmart? Who walks in with the Christian?
2. If Jesus said, “Out of their bellies will flow rivers of living water...” describe the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian. What would happen to Walmart customers if every aisle were a super-soaker aisle?
3. Are you aware of the difference? Do you feel differently toward fellow shoppers?
4. Do people think you’re different? 1 Peter 3:15 says [15But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give a defense to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you. But respond with gentleness and respect.](#) What are the two steps to success Peter speaks of here? If no one asks, is speech necessary? What is necessary at all times?
5. Where is friendship with the world if you take Peter’s exhortation to heart?

Pastor Mark says, “It is in my heart that none of us knock at the door of the wedding feast and get turned away, because we did not have the oil at the right time.” He asks, “How could that happen? I don’t know, this is Jesus’ parable. Ask Him, but I know that now is the time to consider. There were ten. Five were ready and five were not. Five did not take the time to prepare.” Ask yourself:

1. How bright does your relationship with Jesus shine in the world?
2. Can a relationship be borrowed or shared with others?
3. Can a relationship be bought in a moment?
4. What does a successful relationship take? Do you have a testimony?
5. How do you buy oil?
6. Why does this purchase involve fighting the good fight, holding fast and fleeing?

The Follow-up Application

1. Spend time with your heavenly Father. Deliberately take a moment this week to think about the scriptures below in the S.O.A.P study.
2. Read 1 Timothy 5 and ask the Lord to speak to you.
3. Purchase oil this week.
4. Write down baby steps to progress on the [Frustration to Readiness inventory](#) above.

Take the time to pray.

Scribes Notes:

1. **On Joel and Peter and the Acts 2 outpouring at Pentecost:** Look up Acts 2: [17](#)”In the last days, God says, ‘I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. [18](#)Even on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. [19](#)I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. [20](#)The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and glorious Day of the Lord. [21](#)And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 1. What do you see?
 2. Who prophesies? Who dreams dreams? Who sees visions? Exclusively? Or does this extend gifts to everybody?
 3. Compare with Joel’s prophecy, Joel 2: [28](#)*And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. [29](#)Even on My menservants and maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. [30](#)I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. [31](#)The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the LORD. [32](#)And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has promised, among the remnant called by the LORD.* What differences do you see? How well did Peter cite the passage from memory?
 4. How much of Joel’s prophecy do we see coming true today?
 5. Compare to what Jesus prophesied in Mark 16: [6](#)**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. [17](#)And these signs will accompany those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in tongues; [18](#)they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will be made well.”** What do you see happening at Pentecost?
 2. **On the frog in the pot:** The often told story of the frog in the pot goes like this: The frog is an amphibian, and cold-blooded. If you put the frog in a pot of hot water, it will leap from the pot and escape. However, if you place the frog in a pot of cold water, and slowly heat the water, the frog will remain in the pot oblivious to its approaching doom as the water heats to a boil.
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For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the SOAP (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Acts 2: 17-18 Joel 2:30-32

Tuesday: 2 Timothy 10:4-5

Wednesday: 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Thursday: James 4:1-3

Friday: Matthew 25:7-9

Saturday: Matthew 25:13