

Recap of 10/16/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti

(Credit for the outline to Selwyn Hughes, Everyday Light: Water for the Soul)

1. Do I have a regular daily time with God where I replenish my spiritual resources?

Mark 1:21-35

- a) *"To know God, it is necessary to spend consistent time with Him."* Robert D. Foster
- b) *Time spent in reading and meditating upon Scripture.*
- c) *Time spent in prayer, both in:*
 - responding to Him about what we are reading in His Word*
 - and bringing our praise and requests to Him (A.C.T.S.-adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication)*
- d) *Taking time to pass on to others what God is showing us*
- e) *Begin by choosing a time and place that fits your schedule, make this time a priority.*
- f) *"It is both natural and appropriate to be excited about a person's conversion. It is the most significant event in life— to be born anew, to be a new creature in Christ. But that significance and the excitement accompanying it do not excuse ignorance and indifference to the complex process of growth into which every Christian is launched via this new birth...Evangelism crowds' spirituality off the agenda. But having babies is not a vocation; parenting is. It is easier, of course, to have babies. But a church that refuses or neglects the long, intricate, hard work of guiding its newborn creatures into adulthood is being negligent of most of what is in Scripture."* (Peterson)
- g) *After a busy day and before another busy day, Jesus took time, early in the morning, to spend time in prayer. (Mark 1:21-35)*

2. Is there someone I need to forgive? Am I holding a grudge? Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:22-32

- a) *On the basis of God's forgiveness of our enormous debt of sin against Him at the cross, we are to forgive others without limit.*
- b) *Having an unforgiving spirit produces negative consequences in our lives; physically, emotionally, and spiritually.*
- c) *Forgiveness is not forgetting, excusing, or smoothing a wrong over. It doesn't mean saying that the other person wasn't wrong. It doesn't mean the other person shouldn't suffer the consequences of their action."* (Lewis Smedes, "Forgiveness: Power to Change the Past")
- d) *We forgive by: admitting our hurt, anger or bitterness; asking God for His grace and help; forgiving, yielding up, letting go of our hurt by an act of the will; foregoing the right to strike back; replacing feeling of resentment and anger with good will seeking the good of the other person, not harm; and by taking steps to start over at an appropriate time, if necessary and feasible.*