

SERMON MESSAGE FOR MARCH 2/3, 2019

Pastor Dennis Keating

PILGRIM

Growing Strong Through God's Word

John 17:13-19 (p. 923)

THE MAIN POINT → God will use His Word to grow us _____

_____. (1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32)

HOW? BY ...

1. _____ to our loving _____. (17:13; Ps. 139:23-24)

2. Being _____ of Abba's _____.
(17:13; Matt. 11:29-30; Jer. 15:16)

3. _____ Abba's divine _____. (17:14-18)

BY ...

- _____ to it
- _____ on it (Josh. 1:8; Matt. 22:39; Heb. 5:14)
- _____ it (James 1:25)

4. _____ Jesus' _____. (17:19)

Additional Resources

Visit www.efcc.org/pilgrim to find the resources mentioned in today's sermon, or download this weekend's Weekly Study Notes (online outline).

For online sermon resources (audios, videos and study notes), scan the QR code with your smart phone or tablet, or visit our web site at www.efcc.org/sermons/. | EFCC Open Wi-Fi Password: **John3:16**



FROM MARCH 2/3, 2019 SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR SERMON-BASED LIFE GROUPS

Personal preparation: Read the passage, review your outline, and think through the questions. With your group, watch the video blog together.

CONNECTING

1. What are your general thoughts and perceptions toward God's Word? Have you always felt this way about it, or have your feelings changed over time? If so, how so? And why?

GROWING

2. Re-read John 17:13-19, making note of words, phrases and ideas that stand out to you. Now share some of those things with your group, being sure also to mention "Why?" you believe these observations are particularly meaningful for you.
3. Review the four "How" statements from the message. Which ones are most important for you to keep in mind as you approach God's Word at this particular season of life? Why?

SHARING

4. How would you like to grow in God's Word this week? How can your group continue to support you in prayer and encouragement?

Pilgrim Week 9 Memory Verse

"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."
John 17:17 (NLT)

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(For Scripture references and fill-in the blanks)

"The words of the LORD are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times. You O LORD will keep them." Psalm 12:6-7

THE MAIN POINT: God will use His Word to grow us **if we respond to it**. (1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32)

"... long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation;" 1 Peter 2:2

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up;" Acts 20:32

HOW? BY ...

1. **Coming** honestly to our loving **Abba**. (17:13; Ps. 139:23-24)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23-24

2. Being **assured** of Abba's **good purpose**. (17:13; Matt. 11:29-30; Jer. 15:16)

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29-30

"Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;" Jeremiah 15:16

3. **Receiving** Abba's divine **wisdom**. (17:14-18)

BY ...

- **Listening** to it

- **Meditating** on it (Josh. 1:8; Matt. 22:39; Heb. 5:14)

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night;" Joshua 1:8

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39

"But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." Hebrews 5:14

- **Applying** it (James 1:25)

"But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25

4. **Remembering** Jesus' costly **sacrifice**. (17:19)

Scripture Meditation

“My heart has heard you say, ‘Come and talk with me, and my heart responds, ‘Lord I am coming.’” (Psalm 27:8)

A prayerful, meditative time in Scripture might be new for some people but it is a practice encouraged in the Scriptures and used throughout church history. As opposed to an informational Bible study approach, Scripture meditation is sometimes called “praying the Scripture” and is a quiet, slow, reflective manner of opening your heart and mind to God so we can listen to His word. This spiritual practice can be done in 15 minutes or more, as time is available.

Before You Begin

It is often helpful to use a translation such as New Living Translation or a different translation than you use for Bible study. It is also helpful to keep a journal as you go. It will be vital that you UNPLUG or place your phone in “do not disturb/airplane” mode or put it in another room.

- 1. Silence** (1-3 minutes). Quietly or silently let God know you are here ... resting and open to Him. Let the chaos of life settle down. Breathe deep and relax. Express your desire to hear from God. How is your soul today? Write one sentence about how you’re feeling as you come (discouraged, tired, peaceful, joyful?).
- 2. Read prayerfully.** Read the passage (1-4 verses) once or twice. Listen for a word or phrase that stands out. What resonates? Quietly reflect.
- 3. Meditate** (prayerful reflection with God). Focus on a word, words or phrase that stood out; praying, reflecting and wondering with God about what stood out. Maybe read them slowly again. Listen to the Spirit through the words for any invitations from God for personal application. Do not write anything yet.
- 4. Contemplate** (be with God). Rest and wait, staying present with the Spirit and the words. Talk with God—either aloud or silently—as you would a friend, listening to Him about the word(s) or phrase that stood out. Allow His words to ask you personal questions. After the conversation, you may want to journal whatever is in your heart about the verses.

Tips for Scripture Meditation

- Don’t fall into the trap of making this too complex. While the four steps/movements can be helpful, sometimes meditation can be organic, and you’ll flow back and forth between movements when you are reading slowly and attentively.
- Your mind may wander in the quiet. This is very common. Give the practice of meditation some time without criticizing yourself, getting frustrated and giving up.

To Get You Started ...

Week 1

Day 1: Psalm 59:16-17

Day 2: Ephesians 3:14-17

Day 3: Ephesians 3:18-21

Day 4: Psalm 23:1-3

Day 5: Psalm 23:4-6

Days 6-7: Review any of the passages of the week. Read through your journal thoughts and talk with God, as a friend, about your heart and reflect on what He has shown you. Sometimes new insights pop up during a second look.

Week 2

Day 1: Psalm 63:1-4

Day 2: Psalm 63:5-8

Day 3: Romans 8:35-37

Day 4: Romans 8: 38-39

Day 5: Psalm 117:1-2

Day 6-7: Review any of the passages of the week. Read through your journal thoughts and talk with God, as a friend, about your heart. Reflect on what He has shown you. Sometimes new insights pop up during a second look.