

Developing the Jesus-based Quality of Discernment

Discernment: understanding what is happening and why

Shortsightedness: lacking insight and foresight; especially within the “big picture”

Spiritual Disciplines: listening to God, spending time in God’s Word

Jesus:

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10:20

Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” **Luke 10:41-42**

“Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine.” **John 12:28-30**

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. **Matthew 16:21**

Shortsightedness:

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” **Matthew 16:22-23**

Areas that require discernment:

1. pursuing God
2. marriage
3. parenting
4. serving others
5. mistreatment
6. unanswered prayer
7. decisions
8. praise
9. sin opportunities
10. clarifying truth

Areas of shortsightedness:

1. self-centeredness
2. impurity
3. immorality
4. lies
5. pride

Developing the Jesus-based Quality of Alertness

Alertness: recognizing what is happening inside of me and around me so that I can best glorify God in my life

Carelessness: speaking and acting without considering the consequences

Spiritual Disciplines: listening to God, God's Word

Jesus:

She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

*When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." **Luke 8:44-46***

*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." **John 19:26-27***

*They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all." **Mark 9:33-35***

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on." **Mark 12:41-44***

Carelessness:

*But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. **Matthew 12:36***

*On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. **Matthew 14:6-7***

*What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? **Matthew 16:26***

Areas that require alertness:

1. pursuing God
2. marriage
3. parenting
4. praise
5. leadership
6. conflict
7. in groups
8. listening
9. preparing
10. busy times

Areas of carelessness:

1. pride
2. self-righteousness
3. laziness
4. lying
5. dishonesty
6. not listening
7. cheating
8. non-love