

“BIBLE MEMORIZATION”

Luke 6:45

INTRODUCTION

(PLAY “SCRIPTURE MEMORY” VIDEO HERE)

1. Would you agree that much of life is about our reactions?

Maybe you came home from work this week, and just after you sat down, your wife said to you, *“Would you get off your big fat...couch and come over and help me get supper ready?”*

Or, maybe you spent a long day at work and you were trying to get dinner ready, only to notice your husband just sitting on his big fat couch. You had to say, *“Would you get over here and help me?”*

Or, maybe one of your kids ran wild through the house screaming because his little brother wouldn’t let him watch Sponge Bob Square Pants and you had just about had it.

Or, maybe you went to your boss at work with a wonderful suggestion, and he just ignored you. How do you react in those situations?

Wouldn’t you agree that life is often about our reactions? Many times we don’t have time to think about what we’re going to say, we just react.

2. I’ve been realizing more and more that my reactions mean everything to people in my life. What I say

has a significant impact on my wife, on my family members and the people with whom I work.

3. That’s one of the reasons why one of my favorite verses in the Bible is Proverbs 27:15. It says,

(SLIDE)

“A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a rainy day...” (Proverbs 27:15).

Don’t you just love the Bible?

Some people wonder if that verse applies equally to both husbands and wives. And the answer is, *“No.”* It’s right there in the Bible, ladies... just deal with it.

Just joking! Most Bible commentators believe this is universal wisdom in Proverbs so it applies to both husbands and wives. Both men and women can be like constant dripping on a rainy day.

I can’t tell you how many times my comments to my wife have probably felt like a constant dripping on a rainy day. I’ve said something to her that hasn’t been thoughtful. In those moments, God has reminded me of a verse in Ephesians 5,

(SLIDE)

“He who loves his wife loves himself” (Ephesians 5:28).

4. Now some of you are thinking, *“Why are you a pastor? You don’t sound like a very nice person some times.”* Do you know what? You’re right. Sometimes I can

be a jerk. When I think about all the ways I’ve failed God, it sure helps to remember Romans 8:1 which says,

(SLIDE)

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

Now, I share that with you because I’ve realized one of the primary ways God deals with me is to bring sections of Scripture I’ve memorized to my mind. In those moments when I don’t have much time to think about something, and I’m just reacting, God brings a phrase of Scripture to my mind that I’ve memorized. Or, when I don’t have a lot of time to research what Scripture says on a subject, God will bring a verse to my mind that especially applies to a situation.

When I’m tempted to lash out in anger, to doubt the love of God or to make a decision that could be devastating, God brings Scripture to mind to encourage, to convict and remind me what the right path is for my life.

5. So, let me ask you a question as we begin today: *“Have you stored up enough Scripture in your mind so God can access it at just the right time when you need it in your life? When you’re at work, home or at school and you’re faced with a problem or a situation, does the Word of God play a role in how you respond?”*

This morning, we want to turn our attention to several reasons why memorizing Scripture has such a positive impact in our lives. If you have a copy of the Bible, I encourage you to turn with me to Luke, chapter 6. We’ll look at one verse from the words of Jesus that will set the stage for everything else I say this morning.

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7. About this time, some of you are thinking, *“Oh brother. I just can’t memorize.”* Do you know what? Yes you can! Many of us have memorized songs, or phone numbers or televisions commercials. Some of you have rented movies over and over, and you know the lines by heart.

Eg. One of my favorite movies is, *“My Big, Fat Greek Wedding”* because it reminds me so much of my wife’s Lebanese family. I’ve memorized a few lines from that movie.

Maybe you’ve memorized phrases that your parents used. Remember: *“This is going to hurt me more... than it hurts you.”* Or, *“I’ve had it up to here.”* Or, how about this one? *“This is for your own... good.”*

8. Truth is, we’ve memorized all kinds of stuff, so today I want to motivate you to engage the memory chip in your mental computer so that you memorize Scripture. Do you know why this is so important? Look at what Jesus says in Luke 6:45:

(SLIDE)

“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45).

Here’s the point:

(SLIDE)

- Anything stored in my heart will be expressed ultimately in my actions.

If I fill my heart and my mind with evil thoughts...if I fill it with gossip or pornography or lies or greed...it’s going to come out in how I live.

Chuck Swindoll, an author, says it like this:

(SLIDE 6-9)

“I know of no other single practice in the Christian life more rewarding than memorizing Scripture. No single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends. Your prayer life will be strengthened. You’ll be more effective in sharing your faith. Your attitude and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced and your faith will be solidified.”

So, let’s look at these five reasons why memorizing Scripture has such a positive impact on our lives. First of all...

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1. MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE POINTS ME TO GOD’S WAY FOR LIFE.

Folks, there’s a difference between the world’s way and God’s way. Every day, we’re inundated with the world’s way through music, television and the Internet.

You see, everyone wants to know how to live life. That’s why people even consult psychics, because they want a hint about how to live.

Now, if you want your watch fixed, you wouldn’t go to an auto mechanic, would you? They fix things, but they don’t fix your watch.

If you want your hair cut, you wouldn’t go to a lawnmower repairman, right? If you want your braces tightened, you wouldn’t go to a welder, ok? Both guys work with metals, but you better consult the right source.

Well, if God created this wonderful playground we call, “*earth*,” why would you go to anyone else but Him for advice about how to live?

Look at these words in Psalm 119. This psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible and it talks all about the majesty and wonder of Scripture.

Now, look at these words from Psalm 119::

(SLIDE 4,5)

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:9-11).

Do you understand what the psalmist is saying? If you want your life to be protected from temptation and sin, memorize Scripture!

Do you want to have wisdom for making decisions in life? David said it like this in Psalm 119:105,

(SLIDE)

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path”* (Psalm 119:105).

I love these words from the first psalm about a successful man.

(SLIDE 7,8)

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers” (Psalm 1:2,3).

How would you like to have a counselor for every situation in life? Do you know what David said about that:

(SLIDE)

“Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors” (Psalm 119:24).

So, the first reason to memorize Scripture is it points me to God’s for life. And then,

(SLIDE)

2. MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE PREPARES ME TO HELP OTHERS.

Look at these next words in Colossians 3:16:

(SLIDE)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

You might want to circle the words, “*dwell in you*”.

Is there anyone in your life who needs help? Do you know somebody who needs to be admonished or encouraged?

Do you know what we can easily do in those situations? Either we just listen to the person, or we don’t know what to say.

If I let the Word of God dwell richly in me, it will come out in the comments I make with people. That doesn’t mean I have to cite chapter and verse for every comment I make in life, but it will come out in my conversation.

That’s especially important for parents, isn’t it? Look at these words in Deuteronomy chapter 6:

(SLIDE)

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:6,7).

How am I going to talk about the things of God when I’m sitting at home, walking on the road, working on my car

or going to a ball game? The answer is: I have to memorize it.

Eg. Roxanne’s teaching with our daughters

There is a third benefit from memorizing Scripture...

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3. MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE PROVIDES ME WITH SPIRITUAL FOOD

This is a dangerous question to ask on Sunday morning, but how many of you are really hungry for something right now? Maybe you just can’t wait to get to your ABF where you know you’re going to have some great breakfast food, or you’re headed for a restaurant after the service and you just can’t wait, or you’re having a family barbeque this afternoon and you just can’t wait.

If you’re like me, you’ve got some favorite food. Mine happens to be ice cream. But, even I know a steady diet of ice cream isn’t good for you.

Some of you feel that way about chocolate. Some of you feel that way about steak. In fact, several years ago, I was teaching a class for newcomers in our church, and I asked, “*What’s your favorite dessert?*” One guy said, “*Steak.*”

Do you know what David said in Psalm 119?

(SLIDE)

“How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103).

Eg. Every morning when I get up, I make a pot of tea. I put honey and milk in that tea. It’s a wonderful way to start the day. But do you know what I do with that? I get alone with my Bible to read what God says.

Jeremiah said it like this:

(SLIDE)

Jeremiah: “*When Your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight...*” (Jeremiah 15:16).

And, Ezekiel 3 says it like this:

(SLIDE)

“So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth” (Ezekiel 3:3).

Do you know what I’ve noticed? If I go a couple of days without reading the Bible, I begin to crave it. I feel like I just can’t get through another day without Scripture in my heart.

When I memorize Scripture, it just feeds me like good food provides strength for my life.

Eg. Roxanne’s Lebanese background and the Mediterranean diet (foods like grape leaves, hummus, tabouli and baba ganoush).

When I memorize Scripture, it points me to God’s way for life...it prepares me to help others...it provides me with spiritual food...and...

(SLIDE)

4. **MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE PROMISES POWER FOR THE BATTLES OF LIFE**

Look at these next words on the screen:

(SLIDE 26,27,28)

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground....” (Ephesians 6:10-13).

The Bible says the struggles in our lives are not primarily physical...they're spiritual. Our struggles are not primarily with other people or with the government. Our struggles are against the rulers and authorities and powers of this dark world.

When I'm hurt by another person, my struggle is not primarily with that person...it's with the Evil One who wants to use that hurt and turn it into resentment and bitterness. Do you know how tempting it is to think, *“Well, it's no big deal if I do this?”* It's so easy to think, *“Just this once...”*

Do you know the trap of spiritual warfare? Most of us don't take it very seriously until someone gets hurt. Until we get hurt in the battles of life, we don't take spiritual conflict very seriously.

Eg. I don't know what it was like in your house, but my brother and I used to mess around with each other all the time...back then it was called, *“horseplay.”* We'd wrestle and pound on each other just having fun...until somebody got hurt. That changed everything.

That's kind of the way it is with spiritual conflict. We don't really see how serious it is until we give in to temptation and create havoc and hurt for people we love.

When I memorize Scripture, I'm always prepared for the spiritual battles I encounter.

Look at verse 17:

(SLIDE)

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).

Now, why did God compare His Word to a sword? Do you know the answer? When I'm tempted, or I doubt, or I have questions that arise, God's Word cuts through all of that and goes right to the heart of the issue. Hebrews 4 says it like this:

(SLIDE)

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges

the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Do you know what is amazing? Jesus used the Word of God when He faced spiritual battles. The Bible tells us when He was tempted by the Evil One, He quoted Scripture. In Matthew 4, Jesus said it like this:

(SLIDE)

*“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God”
(Matthew 4:4).*

There is one more reason why memorizing Scripture is so beneficial in my life...

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5. **MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE PURIFIES MY LIFE FROM OLD HABITS**

I want you to picture with me a cup that’s half full with dirty, dirty water. How do you get a cup of dirty water to be clean? What do you have to do? You’ve got to fill it with new water. You just keep pouring in new clean water and pretty soon, the dirty water comes out.

For some of us, our lives are so filled with nastiness and filth, we need to put new clean water into our lives to clean us up.

Look at these words from Ephesians 4 in the Message translation:

(SLIDE 33,34)

“Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything - and I do mean everything - connected with that old way of life has to go. It’s rotten through and through. Get rid of it!

And then take on an entirely new way of life - a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces His character in you” (Ephesians 4:21-24, Msg).

Paul said it like this to the Galatians:

(SLIDE)

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want” (Galatians 5:17).

Here’s the principle:

(SLIDE)

- The fastest way to get rid of something in my life is to replace it.

The fastest way to get rid of bad habits in my life is to replace them with good ones.

CONCLUSION

1. As we conclude, I want to give you just a couple of key ways to memorize Scripture. You see, this doesn’t happen just automatically or because I’ve attended a

church service. There are some things I need to do. First of all, if I’m going to memorize Scripture, I have to understand the value of...

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- Repetition

Once I’ve decided to memorize a verse, I have to say it at least ten times out loud. For me, it takes about 20 times the first time around on the first day. And then I need to say it about 15 times the next day. I have to repeat it. And then...

(CLICK AGAIN)

- Review

If I want to keep Scripture in my mind, I have to keep reviewing what it says.

You know, folks, you and I will memorize what’s important to us. Some of us memorize batting averages of ball players. A loan officer at a bank will memorize interest rates. A service man memorizes his labor rate. A quarterback memorizes football plays. A musician will memorize music.

We remember what affects us personally. If you can remember your own address, and the names of your family members, and your cell phone number, you can memorize.

I’ve listed at the bottom of your outline a wonderful tool called, “*YouVersion.com*,” where you can upload to your cell phone the text of Scripture. This will even prod you to memorize Scripture on your own. You can sign up to read

with us in our devotional readings that are prepared each week. You can select a verse or two every week to memorize. But like the old Nike commercial says, the key to memorizing is... “*Just do it.*” Would you bow your heads with me?

(COMMUNICATION CARD)

(NEWCOMERS’ CLASS AUG 25TH, GREET OUTSIDE)