



BIBLICALLY AUTHENTIC MEN

BAM 2011-12 | December 8, 2011

The Word

Big Idea: We make room for what we love.

Affections

18th century pastor and theologian Jonathon Edwards said:

*“We **feel** most deeply about things when we **think** most deeply about them.”*

Can you think of something that you are very affectionate about? Something or someone you think about often? That you treasure?

How about your relationship with Jesus Christ?

How do you engage Him? How much time do you give Him? Do you think about Him often? Do you treasure His Word – His letters – to you?

Some ways we struggle to make consistent time in Scripture a priority are:

- ~ too busy
- ~ lack of interest
- ~ inability to engage the text
- ~ forgetfulness
- ~ too tired
- ~ haven't thought much about it

Our theme of BAM this year is to release our masculine soul to live as biblically authentic husbands, fathers, friends, mentors and workers. But there are obstacles that block the path toward whole-hearted discipleship of Jesus Christ.

One of those obstacles is the lack of consistent, fruitful engagement with Scripture.

“The tendency of most Christians in our hurried, overburdened times is to close the Bible as soon as we’ve read it and turn to the next thing on our to-do list. If pressed, we’d usually have to admit – immediately after closing the Bible – that we don’t remember a thing we’ve read. Reading alone will seldom give us the encounter with God, the spiritual nourishment, that our souls need.” – John Piper, God Entranced Vision of All Things, p.114

We are a busy, hurried bunch. But our busyness isn't the problem.

The primary reason we might struggle with making concerted, consistent time in Scripture a priority is because we are in a battle.

We are under Attack

1 Peter 5:8 - Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:12 - 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.

Satan's Battle Plan

"Satan's first objective is to remove the Word of God from your mind so that, when you hear it, you let it go in one ear and out the other. If you can dismiss the Word of God, and pay no attention to it, then Satan will have prevented it from being watered so that it can produce fruit. Satan will blind your mind to the truth of the Word of God if at all possible. Where there is no Word, there can be no growth, and where there is no Word, there can be no fruit. Fruit in the life of an individual is dependent upon the reception of the Word of God because there can be no fruit apart from the living seed. To keep you from receiving the Word of God, Satan will substitute something else." – J. Dwight Pentecost

Our Weapon

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

Hebrews 4:12 - 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.

"We have one offensive weapon, the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. But what many Christians fail to realize is that we can't draw the sword from someone else's scabbard. If we don't wear it, we can't wield it. If the Word of God does not abide in us, we will reach in vain when the enemy attacks. But if we do wear it, if it lives within us, what mighty warriors we can be!" – John Piper, Desiring God

Questions & Talking Points for Small Group Discussion

~ How would you rate the feeding of your soul through the Word? 1 = starving, 10 = fully nourished and satisfied.

~ What word or phrase first comes to mind when you think of the Bible? How does this influence your view of reading and studying God's Word?

~ If you struggle with consistent, thoughtful time in Scripture is there a lie you believe – about yourself or God's Word – that fosters this struggle?

~ When you read Scripture, how do you qualify whether you had a good or bad devotional time? Is there anything you need to change about those qualifiers?

~ What's one step you can take toward being in God's Word more consistently?

~ As a small group, commit to a daily reading and meditation of Scripture this week. Read the Proverb that associates with the day's date (e.g. read Proverbs 8 on Dec. 8), and covenant with your group to do this. Report back next week.