

# Distractions

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03/04/2023 – Pittsburgh

**Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 119:15:

I will meditate on your precepts, and contemplate your ways.

**Opening Hymn:** #425: Holy, Holy is What the Angels Sing

**Closing Hymn:** #598: Watch Ye Saints

**Gem of Light** – Our God has heaven and earth at His command, and He knows just what we need. We can see only a little way before us; “but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:13. Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best. [**Counsels for the Church P. 77.1, E.G.W.**]

**Introduction:** Like an illusionist utilizing misdirection the devil can distract us. Why would he do that and what can I do about it. Let’s find out together.

1. **What were some distractions for the disciples?**

Luke 9:46-56

**\*Verses 46-48:** Who is the greatest? The desire for earthly recognition. He who receives a child and he who receives Jesus. Do not measure value and worth by earthly standards.

**\*Verses 49-50:** Jesus forbids sectarianism. The disciples were putting up barriers within their own faith. They were so focused on what differentiated them they lost sight of the mission.

**\*Verses 51-56:** Distracted by anger of being rejected James and John wanted to kill those they were supposed to save. See vs. 56.

**What are some things that can become distractions to us?**

\*Politics – Media - People - Anything can become a distraction

## *Distractions*

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1. **What is the cost of discipleship?** – Luke 9:57-62

\***Verses 57-58:** Someone said they'd follow Jesus anywhere. Would they really do that?

\***Verses 59-60:** Another person was distracted by the imminent death of a loved one.

\***Verses 62-62:** Another person was distracted by family.

\*All these things are important, but Jesus saw through these excuses as nothing more than that... excuses.

2. **What was Jesus preparing His disciples for?**

Luke 10:1

Jesus was preparing his people to share a message of hope. He knew there would be challenges of all kinds to divert or even stop this mission. Jesus sent them out as trained men that would continue on the job training.

3. **Did Jesus experience a labor shortage?** – Luke 10:2

Many jobs today are experiencing labor shortages. Can you imagine the limited labor that is working today being distracted in the positions they have been entrusted with. The companies cannot afford to take such risks. Imagine a farmhand driving a million-dollar harvester and being distracted by the excuses that the disciples gave Jesus.

4. **Is this a safe world to join in God's mission?** – Luke 10:3

Jesus warned them it would not be easy.

\*Jesus was sending them out to build relationships and eat with people (VS 8) and to heal people (VS 9).

5. **Would everyone accept their message?** – Luke 10:11

Unfortunately, not everyone would be excited about this message. Jesus even wants them to understand how close they were to the Kingdom of God.

\*How close are you to the Kingdom of God? Have you almost accepted the message?

6. **Can arrogance become a distraction?** – Luke 10:17-20

\***Verse 17:** Even the demons were subject to the disciples in the name of Jesus.

\***Verse 19:** Jesus tried to tame the potentially dangerous arrogance. See also Mt. 4:7.

\***Verse 20:** If there is to be excitement, let it be because of names in the book of life.

7. **Could people be distracted by misunderstood Bible Prophecy?** – Luke 10:23-24

We can have our minds made up of such string preconceived notions regarding the Bible that we can completely miss what is right before us.

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### 9. **Can some distractions be good?** – Luke 10:30-37

Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. In it are three main characters.

\***The priest** (church employee) who won't be distracted by that which is unclean.

\***The Levite** (church member), who won't be bothered by an unclean man in need.

\***The Samaritan.** Some distractions are worthy of our time. Let us not be so rigid that we have no time for compassion.

### 10. **Is it possible to even be too distracted serving Jesus that we have no time to worship Jesus?**

Luke 10:38-42

In verse 40 we see the Greek word perispao, which is translated cumbered or distracted. The Strong's definition is to draw away, distract or to be driven about mentally.

\*Martha was upset that her sister wasn't pulling her own weight. In Martha's mind, Mary should have been just as busy as Martha.

\***Jesus had to help Martha to understand priorities, sitting at Jesus' feet must always come first.** Remember the most important thing will always gain your attention

**Conclusion:** I once knew a salesman that refused to do anything other than sell. He wouldn't help around the store, wouldn't help move inventory etc... his mind was dedicated to sales. After all, that's where the money was.

It took me many years to understand the value in this type of focus. His job was to sell, that's what he was there for and that's what he was paid to do.

Our job is to sell too. Sell the free gift of Jesus to any customer who will take the time to listen. Let us not get distracted by anything that distracts us from the mission Jesus has set us on while at the same time being receptive to the "Samaritans" that we may come across (**1 Corinthians 7:35**).