

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERY LIFE

Acts 9:1 - 31

John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit:

A. Saul's Own Plan for His Life:

1. What was Saul doing the first time he is mentioned in the Bible?
 - a. Acts 7:58, 59 _____
 - b. Acts 8:1 _____
 - c. Acts 8:3 _____
2. Having persecuted the Christians in Jerusalem, where did Saul plan to go next? Acts 9:2

3. Why did Saul do these things? Acts 26:9

B. God's Plan for Saul's Life:

1. What two things had God planned for Saul to do for Him?
 - a. Acts 9:15 _____
 - b. Acts 9:16 _____
2. What three things did God do to make Saul realize that God had a plan for him?
 - a. Acts 9:3 _____
 - b. Acts 9:4 _____
 - c. Acts 9:8, 9 _____
3. What were Saul's reactions to the things God did?
 - a. How did he feel? Acts 9:6a _____
 - b. What did he say? Acts 9:6b _____
4. Was Saul really *willing* to do what God wanted him to do? (*THINK!*)

5. Whom did God use to show God's plan for him? Acts 9:10-18

C. Saul's Response to God's Plans:

1. How long did Saul wait before he began to do what God had planned for him?

2. How did other people feel about Saul after this? Acts 9:21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did God expect Saul to plan his own life? Jeremiah 10:23
-
2. Does God expect *me* to plan my own life? (See Proverbs 27:1; James 4:13-15)
-

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Not what I wish to be, nor where I wish to go, for who am I, that I should choose my way? The Lord shall choose for me, ‘tis better far, I know, so let Him bid me go, or stay.”

-- From C. Austin Miles “SUBMISSION”

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, show me if I have been making my own plans for my life. Forgive me for this if I have sinned. Help me during this course of study to discover Thy plan for my life, and make me willing to follow that plan completely; for Jesus' sake, Amen.

IT IS GOD'S PLAN THAT EVERY LIFE SHOULD BE SAVED
Matthew 18:11 - 14; Luke 15:11 - 24

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

A. The Lost Sheep: Matthew 18:11-14

1. How many sheep did the man have? Matthew 18:12a

2. Which sheep was he most concerned about? Matthew 18:12b

3. What attitude do you think was in his heart toward this sheep?

4. How did he feel when this sheep was found? Matthew 18:13

5. Who do you think the owner of the sheep represents?
Matthew 18:14a

6. Who does the lost sheep represent? Isaiah 53:6

7. How many people does God want to perish? Matthew 18:14b

B. The Lost Son: Luke 15:11-24

1. Who are the main characters in this story? Luke 15:11

2. About whom was the younger son's life centered? Whom was he most concerned about? Luke 15:12, 13a

3. What was his relationship to his father after this? Luke 15:13b (*THINK!*)

4. What kind of life did he live? Luke 15:13c

5. Do you think his father would have approved of his life?

6. What eventually happened to the son's money? Luke 15:14a

7. What then came to the land where he was staying? Luke 15:14b

8. What did the son have to do? Luke 15, 16

9. In the midst of his sufferings, what did he remember? Luke 15:17

10. What did he decide to do? Luke 15:18

11. What did he realize about himself? Luke 15:19, 21

12. What was his father's attitude toward him even after all his wickedness?
Luke 15:20

13. Who do you think the father in this story represents?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is the condition of every person who comes into the world today?
(See Romans 3:10, 11, 12, 23)

2. In spite of this, what is God's attitude toward each person?
(See John 3:16)

3. What must every one do in order to go to heaven? Matthew 18:3

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"He sees you, ruined by the fall—Yet loves you, notwithstanding all; Oh,
won't you leave your lost estate? His yearning heart does patient wait."
--Adapted from Samuel Medley's "AWAKE MY SOUL, TO JOYFUL LAYS"

PRAYER:

O Lord show me what is the real condition of my heart, as You do see it.
Show me if I have been **really** converted. Help me to be sure of this, so
that I can **know** I am on my way to heaven. I thank You for Your great
concern for me. Forgive me for not appreciating this before now. Forgive
me too for not sharing Your burden that everyone in the world should be
saved. Help me from now on to share that burden, and to do my part to
win others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**YOU CANNOT DISCOVER THE REST OF GOD'S PLAN
FOR YOU UNTIL YOU ARE SAVED
Matthew 13:1 - 3, 10 - 18**

1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

A. Jesus' Method of Teachings:

1. When Jesus taught the multitudes of people, what type of story did He use? Matthew 13:3

This is often called "a true-to-life story which teaches spiritual truth."

2. Did the disciples know *why* he taught in this manner? Matthew 13:10

3. What words in Matthew 13:11 describe the teaching Jesus was giving?

B. Who Could Understand Jesus' Teachings:

1. Whom did Jesus expect to understand these teachings? Matthew 13:11a

2. Whom did He *not* expect to understand them? Matthew 13:11b, Matthew 13:2

3. What two things did Jesus say about this second group? Matthew 13:13

a. _____

b. _____

4. Whose fault was it that these people could not see? Matthew 13:15a

5. What four things would they have to do before they could be healed of their blindness? Matthew 13:15b

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

6. To whom did Jesus finally explain the parable? Matthew 13:18

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What people today do you think can really understand God's teachings and His plan?

2. What do these people have that helps them to understand?
(See John 14:26, 16:13)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"Is the voice of Jesus calling *you* today, Spirit, soul, and body at His feet to lay? Ah, the life thus yielded shall be *found*—not *lost*: Answer "Yes" to Jesus—"Yes" at any cost, His just claim upon my soul redeemed, confess, at His feet receiving strength to answer, "Yes!"

--Author Unknown

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, I know that I do not understand many of Your teachings. If this is because I am not one of Thy disciples, because I am still a "natural man", and have never truly been born again, please help me *this day* to become one of Your own, so that I *can* understand Your teachings. Lead me to the person You have chosen to show me the way. If I really *am* Your own, then help me to have ears that can hear Your message for me—today, and every day as I study Your Word for myself. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

**GOD'S PLAN FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN IS THAT HE SHOULD BE A WITNESS
FOR GOD**

Matthew 28:16 - 20; Acts 1:1 - 11

Mark 16:15 "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

A. Jesus' Last Command:

1. We have record of only one command that Jesus gave to His disciples after He arose from the dead. It is repeated several times. What is it?

a. Matthew 28:19, 20a _____

b. Acts 1:8 _____

2. Who was to give the disciples power to carry out this command? Acts 1:8a

B. The Importance of This Command:

1. Do you think this was a very important command? Why?

2. Do you think there was anything else Jesus intended for His disciples to do while He was away from them? (*THINK!*) Why?

3. How long do you think they were to keep on doing what Jesus commanded? Acts 1:11

4. If Jesus' disciples were actually to carry out this command, how would it affect their lives? (*THINK!*)

5. Do you think most Christians today are concerned about carrying out Jesus' last command? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. If people had to judge by my life what Jesus' last command was, what would they think it was?

2. If I am really going to obey Jesus' command, what habits and plans of mine will have to be changed?

THOUGH FOR THE DAY:

"I am leading my child to the heavenly land, I am guiding Him day by day, and I ask him now as I hold his hand to come home by a rugged way. It is not a way he himself would choose, for its beauty he cannot see, but he knows not what his soul would lose if he trod not the path with me ."

--Author Unknown

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, I thank You for showing me that it is Your will for *me* to be a witness to all the world. Help me to begin this work *today*, by witnessing to those who are right around me. Give me opportunities to keep on witnessing for You in days to come. May my whole life be spent in carrying out Your one last command. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE ARE CALLED ON TO WITNESS IN DIFFERENT WAYS
1 Corinthians 12:1, 11 - 31

Colossians 4:17 "Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it."

A. The True-to-Life Story: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

1. To what does Paul, the author of this letter, compare all those who belong to Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13

2. What is the outstanding characteristic of the human body?
1 Corinthians 12:14

3. Does every part of the human body perform the same function?
1 Corinthians 12:14-16

4. Why aren't all the parts of the human body alike? 1 Corinthians 12:17

5. What is it that determines what each part of the human body shall do?
1 Corinthians 12:18

6. Is there any part of the human body which is not necessary
1 Corinthians 12:21, 22

7. What should be the relationship of the various parts of the human body to each other? 1 Corinthians 12:25b

8. What happens when one part of the human body suffers or is honored?
1 Corinthians 12:26

B. The Spiritual Truth of the Story: 1 Corinthians 12:1, 11, 27-31

1. What people would be parts of Christ's body? 1 Corinthians 12:27

2. Go back over questions 2-8 above, substituting "Christ's body" in each question where the words "the human body" occur. Which of your answers are different from those answers already given?

3. List in order the various works to which God may call different people:

1 Corinthians 12:28

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____
- g. _____
- h. _____

4. Is this the order of importance that *we* would give to these works? (*THINK!*)

5. Which of these works are we to seek to do for the Lord? 1 Corinthians 12:31

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What do *I* think is the most desirable occupation in the world for me?

2. Is this the occupation into which God by His Spirit wants to lead me?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“God’s highest calling for His own is not the mission field, nor preaching, teaching, . . . marriage, love, . . . nor ruling hands to wield, . . . It’s neither here nor there that counts, but what’s the Father’s will; For those who’ll do His perfect task, in love He calleth still.”

--Sarah B. Overstreet

PRAYER

Dear Lord, I thank You that You have a very specific work for me to do for You – a very definite way for me to witness for You I pray that Your spirit will give me the *gift* *He* desires for me to have and that You will place me in the work You would have me to do. I pray that as I seek You today, You will begin to show me Your specific plan for my life. For Jesus’ sake, Amen.

**EACH CHRISTIAN MUST FIND OUT THE SPECIFIC WAY GOD WANTS HIM TO
WITNESS**

1 Kings 13:1 - 32

Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

A. The Message of the Man of God: 1 Kings 13:1-6

1. When the man of God came out of Judah to Bethel, what did he cry out against? 1

Kings 13:2a

2. Where had he gotten his message? 1 Kings 13:1, 2a
-

3. Why was he able to give a sign that his prophecy would come true?

1 Kings 13:3, 5

4. How was he able to perform the miracle of healing the king's hand?

1 Kings 13:6

B. God's Message to the Man of God: 1 Kings 13:7-10

1. What three commands had God given to the man of God? 1 Kings 13:9

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. What did the man of God give up in order to obey these commands of God? 1 Kings

13:7, 8, 10

C. The Message of the Old Prophet: 1 Kings 13:11-19

1. Who caused the man of God to disobey the commands which the Lord had given to him? 1 Kings 13:18a, 11a
-

2. What was he telling the man of God? 1 Kings 13:18e
-

3. Which message did the man of God believe – the one God had given to him, or the one the old prophet gave him? 1 Kings 13:19
-

D. God's Message to the Man of God: 1 Kings 13:20-32

1. Which message did God expect the man of God to believe? 1 Kings 13:21

2. What happened to the man of God because he disobeyed God's message to him? 1 Kings 13:22b, 24

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Can I depend on what other people tell me is God's will for my life?

2. From whom must I find out God's will for me?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Seek him who points you to God's Word, Who teaches you to seek the Lord, Who does the principles define, So you cannot make its teaching yours. But who *his* own opinion tells, Or loud *his* dreams and visions swells, Or who would choose your way *for* you – This person shun – to *God* be true!”

-- Sarah B. Overstreet

PRAYER:

O Lord, forbid that I should miss Your perfect plan for my life by listening to others who say they are God's prophets, but who are really lying to me concerning God's plan for my life. Help me to find Your will for me directly from You, as I read Your Word and seek Your face in prayer. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

**SIN WILL KEEP A CHRISTIAN FROM
WITNESSING EFFECTIVELY**

Jonah 1, 2, 3

Psalm 51:10, 13 "Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Then will I teach transgressors thy way; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee."

A. Jonah's First Witness for God: Jonah 1:1-10

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go? Jonah 1:2a

2. What was he to do there? Jonah 1:2b

3. Where did Jonah go? Jonah 1:3a

4. What was he trying to get away from? Jonah 1:3b

5. Did Jonah do what God had told him to do? (*THINK!*)

6. What do we call it when someone disobeys God?

7. Did God bless Jonah's life at this time? Jonah 1:4, 5

8. Was Jonah's testimony for the Lord good or bad? Jonah 1:6, 9, 10

B. God's Dealings with Jonah: Jonah 1:11-2:10

1. What two things did God allow to happen to Jonah?

a. Jonah 1:12, 15 _____

b. Jonah 1:17 _____

2. What did Jonah do after this? Jonah 2:1

3. What did Jonah promise God he would do? Jonah 2:9

4. Then what happened to Jonah? Jonah 2:10

C. Jonah's Later Witness for God: Jonah 3:1-10

1. What was God's command to Jonah after this? Jonah 3:1, 2

2. What was Jonah's response to this command? Jonah 3:3

3. What was the result of Jonah's witness this time? Jonah 3:5a, 10a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What made the difference between Jonah's first witness and his later witness?

2. Is my witness for the Lord effective at the present time?

3. If not, what *might* be the cause for my failure?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"We mutter and sputter, we fume and we spurt; we mumble and grumble, our feelings get hurt. We can't understand things, our vision grows dim, When all that we need is a moment with Him!"

-- Author Unknown

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, forbid that I should ever refuse to listen to You, or ignore You, or disobey You when You speak to me. Keep my heart pure and free from sin, so that I may give a good witness for You at all times, and so that sinners may be converted unto You through my testimony. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**CONFLICTS WITH OTHERS WILL HINDER
A CHRISTIAN'S WITNESSING
Matthew 18:15 - 35, 5:23, 24**

Mark 11:25, 26 “ And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

A. Procedure if One Wrongs You: Read Matthew 18:15-17

1. If someone trespasses against (wrongs) you, what three steps did Jesus say you should take in an effort to be reconciled with him? Matthew 18:15, 16, 17a
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
2. If all three of these procedures fail, then what must you do?
Matthew 18:17b

B. How Often to Forgive: Read Matthew 18:21-35

1. How many times did Peter suggest would be enough to forgive one who has wronged you? Matthew 18:21

2. But how many times did Jesus say we should forgive? Matthew 18:22

3. In the story which Jesus told to illustrate this point, how much did the first servant owe? Matthew 18:24

4. What would have had to be done even to begin to pay this amount? Matthew 18:25

5. When he begged for more time to pay, what did the king do, and why? Matthew 18:26, 27

6. How much did another servant owe to this first servant? Matthew 18:28

7. This was about 100 days' wages. How would this compare with what the first servant owed to the king? (*THINK!*)

8. Yet when the second servant begged the first for more time to pay, what did the first servant do? Matthew 18:29, 30
-
9. When the king heard what the first servant had done, how did he feel? Matthew 18:31-34a
-
10. What did he then do to the first servant? Matthew 18:34b, c
-
11. Therefore, what did Jesus conclude that we must do? Matthew 18:35
-

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who does the king in Jesus' story represent? The first servant? The second?
-
2. Could anything that anyone ever did to me be anywhere near as bad as what I have done to God and Jesus? Yet what did they do to me? John 3:16. Therefore, what should I do to others? Matthew 5:23, 24
-

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others."

-- Hebrews 12:15 (Phillips)

PRAYER:

O, Lord God! I pray that You will show me how very great are the sins for which You have forgiven me. For then I know that I would realize that anything someone else could do to me would be infinitely small by comparison! Lord, help me truly to forgive everyone from my heart -- regardless of how great is the wrong done to me. Help me to be reconciled with everyone on earth, so that there might not spring up in me a bitter spirit which will keep me from witnessing effectively for You. In Jesus' name and for His sake, Amen.

**A GUILTY CONSCIENCE WILL PREVENT
A CHRISTIAN'S WITNESSING
Psalms 32:1 - 5; 51:1 - 17**

Acts 24:16 "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men."

A. The Blessings of a Clear Conscience: Read Psalm 32:1, 2

1. What kind of a person did David describe in Psalm 32:1, 2

2. What did he say was true of such a person? Psalm 32:1a

B. The Horrors of a Guilty Conscience: Read Psalm 32:3, 4

1. When David had kept silence, not confessing his sin for about a year, what three things had characterized his life? Psalm 32:3, 4a, 4b

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. Would this have been a pleasant life? (*THINK!*)

C. How to Gain a Clear Conscience: Read Psalm 32:5, Psalm 51:1-12, 16, 17

1. What three things did David do concerning his sin? Psalm 32:5a-c

2. Then what did the Lord do? Psalm 32:5d

3. Read the prayer David prayed in Psalm 51:1-12. What did he ask the Lord to do:

a. concerning his sin? Psalm 51:1c, 9b, 9a _____

b. to David himself? Psalm 51:2a, 7b, _____ 2b _____

7a _____

4. About what four parts of himself was David especially concerned? Psalm 51:6a, _____

_____ 6b, _____ 10a, _____ 10b, _____

5. What did he acknowledge had been missing all the while he did not confess and forsake his sin? Psalm 51:12a, 8

6. How often had he thought about his sin? Psalm 51:3b

7. What two sacrifices had David made for his sin? Psalm 51:17

D. The Effect of a Clear Conscience: Read Psalm 51:13-15

1. If God would do all that David asked, what would David then be able to do? Psalm 51:13a

2. What would be the result of this? Psalm 51:13b

3. What else would David also be able to do? Psalm 51:15

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. If David had not confessed his sin, would he ever have been able to witness for the Lord again? What would probably have happened to him? (See Psalm 51:11)

 2. Is God's hand heavy upon me? Is the joy of my salvation gone? Do I feel old because of the weight of guilt I carry? If so, what could be the reason? What do I need to do? Even if it was a "little" sin? A long while ago?
-

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

"I . . . sent you out to battle for the right armed only with your faith and a clear conscience. Some, alas, have laid these simple weapons contemptuously aside, and, as far as their faith is concerned, have run their ships on the rocks."

-- 1 Timothy 1:18, 19 (Phillips)

PRAYER:

O, Dear Lord! Help me to identify every item which has come between me and You, or between me and another. Help me to begin *now* making these things right, not only with You, but with others—even those who were mostly in the wrong, those who might not understand, and those who have moved away; and even if it involves money I don't have—because I know You are able to supply what is necessary for me to get right with everyone. May I not stop until I have a conscience that is completely free of offense, both with God, and with men. and I thank You in advance for the difference this is going to make in my witnessing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**INSISTING ON ONE'S OWN RIGHTS WILL LIMIT
A CHRISTIAN'S WITNESSING
1 Corinthians 9:3 - 27**

Philippians 3:7, 8a “ But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord . . . “

A. Paul's Rights as a Minister: Read 1 Corinthians 9:3-14:

1. In defending his apostleship, what powers did Paul say he had a right to exercise in his position as a minister for God? 1 Corinthians 9:4, _____
5, _____6, _____
2. To further prove his point, what three illustrations did he use?
1 Corinthians 9:7
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. What did he quote from Old Testament law to prove his point?
1 Corinthians 9:8, 9b

4. Did Paul think this was written just for the sake of oxen? 1 Corinthians 9:9c, 10

5. Since Paul had “sown” spiritual things to the Corinthians, what kind of things did he have a right to “reap” from them? 1 Corinthians 9:11

6. Had others taken advantage of this right? 1 Corinthians 9:12a, b

7. In every religion of their day, how did those who ministered about holy things live? 1 Corinthians 9:13

8. What did Paul say that the Lord had ordained? 1 Corinthians 9:14

B. Paul's Response to These Rights: Read 1 Corinthians 9:12c-e, 15-27

1. Although Paul was absolutely convinced that he had a right to exercise each of these powers, what had he done about them? 1 Corinthians 9:12c, 15a

2. For what two reasons had he done this? 1 Corinthians 9:12d, e; 18, 19
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

3. Why had he adapted himself to the needs of those to whom he ministered?

1 Corinthians 9:20-23

4. What was Paul's goal in life? 1 Corinthians 9:24 and *THINK!*
-

5. In order to accomplish this goal, what did he realize he must do?

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was Paul wise to surrender his rights for the sake of the gospel? Did it help or hinder his effectiveness for the Lord? How much?
-
2. What do I consider that I have a right to do? Be? Have? Do I insist on being allowed to exercise these rights? Or would I be willing to give them up for God? If I did give them up, that would God do in return? What inward qualities might I be able to develop through giving up these rights? How would these qualities help me in spreading the gospel?
-

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“ . . . Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he has, he cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, how much I praise You for showing me the value of surrendering all my rights to You! Lord, help me to turn over to You every single one of them, knowing that You will take good care of them, for You always take good care of Your property. Then, Lord wilt not You give back to me exactly the experiences You do see are needed to make me like You, so that I will be most suited for spreading You gospel to the ends of the earth. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

**BEING OCCUPIED WITH “THINGS” WILL KEEP
A CHRISTIAN FROM WITNESSING ACCORDING
TO GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS LIFE**

John 21:1 - 17

Luke 21:34 “Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with . . . cares of this life.”

A. Peter’s Former Occupations:

1. What was Simon Peter’s occupation before he met Jesus? Mark 1:16

2. What did Jesus offer to make of him if he would follow Jesus? Mark 1:17

3. How long do you think Jesus wanted Peter to continue in this new occupation? (*THINK!*)

B. Peter’s Present Occupation:

1. At the time of today’s reading, when Jesus was no longer with His disciples in person all the time, what did Peter decide to do? John 21:3

2. Do you think this was the thing Jesus was most eager for Peter to do?

3. Was Peter successful in this occupation? John 21:3, 5

4. Who gave him instructions as to how he could be successful? John 21:5, 6

C. Peter’s Future Occupation:

1. What did Jesus say Peter was to spend his time doing from now on? John 21:15b, 16b, 17b

2. What do you think Jesus meant that Peter was to do? (*THINK!*)

3. If Peter carried out Jesus’ instructions, how much time would he have left over for other things? (*THINK!*)

4. What three things did Jesus say could keep a Christian from being fruitful? Mark 4:18, 19
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
5. What kept a soldier in the Old Testament from doing the one thing he was told to do? 1 Kings 20:39, 40s
- _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What is the thing God would most like for me to do at the present time?
- _____
2. Are other activities, desires, and cares keeping me from doing this?
- _____

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“The angels from their thrones on high look down on us with wondering eye, That where we are but passing guests We build such strong and sturdy nests; But where we hope to dwell for aye We scarce take heed one stone to lay!”

-- Author Unknown

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, forbid that at *anytime* I should allow the cares of *this* life to crowd out the work that you would have me to do for You --work which counts for eternity, and the world to come. Help me to set my face like a flint so that radio, television, movies, magazines, parties, school activities, etc., will not keep me from being fruitful for You. Defeat the efforts of Satan to sidetrack me from *all* the will of God for me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**EACH PERSON MUST GIVE ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE
WITH HIS LIFE**

Matthew 25:14 - 30

Romans 14:12, 10b “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”

A. The Servants Receive:

1. Who do you think the man traveling into a far country represents?
Matthew 25:14 (See also vs. 13, 31)

2. Who do you think his servants represent? Matthew 25:14 (See also vs. 32)

3. What was given to each of the servants? Matthew 25:15, 27a

4. To whom did that which they received belong? Matthew 25:14b

5. What determined how much each servant received? Matthew 25:15

B. The Servants Work:

1. What did the first two servants do with the goods they had received? Matthew 25:16, 17

2. What was the percentage of their gain? Matthew 25:16, 17

3. What did the third servant do with the goods he had received? Matthew 25:18

C. The Servants Give Account:

1. When did the man call his servants to give account to him? Matthew 25:19

2. Was there any difference in what the Lord said to the first servant and the second servant? Matthew 25:21, 23

3. For what were the first two servants commended? Matthew 25:21, 23

4. What was to be their position in the future? Matthew 25:21, 23

5. What were they to share from now on? Matthew 25:21, 23

6. Was the Lord satisfied to receive *just* what he had given the third servant?
Matthew 25:26, 27

7. What two things happened to the servant who did not use his Lord's goods
to gain profit for his Lord? Matthew 25:28, 30

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What am I doing with the abilities, money, etc., which God has given me?

2. Read 1 John 2:28. Would I be ashamed to meet Jesus if He should come today?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

“Isn't it strange that princes and kings, and clowns that caper in sawdust rings, and common folk--like you and me, are builders for eternity? To each is given a bag of tools, a shapeless mass and a book of rules, and each must make, ere life is flown, a stumbling-block or a stepping-stone.”

--R. L. Sharpe

PRAYER:

Lord, my Lord, I thank You for the talents You have given me to use for You.

I thank You that You have given me gifts according to my ability to use them. Father, I pray that I may be faithful in using *all* of these gifts for You, so that I may not have to be ashamed before You at Your coming. For Jesus' sake, Amen.