Monday
Sacred Versus Secular

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Gen. 2:15).

Imagine for a moment that Jesus has just completed his three years of training with the disciples. He has been crucified and rose again. He is now commissioning the apostles to go into the world and disciple the nations. Now imagine him also making this statement to them. "Dear brothers, it is now time for you to share what you have learned from me. However, as you share with others be sure that you keep what I taught you separate from your work life. The principles I have shared with you only apply in situations outside your work life. The miracles you saw in me can only be done in certain situations outside work life. Keep this in mind when thinking about praying for the sick or the lost. These truths will not work in the marketplace."

Sound preposterous? It may, but this is the mindset of many in our world today. The spiritual does not mix with the everyday world of the workplace. "What happens on Monday has no relationship to what takes place on Sunday," These are the thoughts expressed so much in our day and time, although they are not expressed in such direct terms. Jesus trained as a carpenter. He did not come as a priest, although He was both a King and a Priest (Rev. 1:6 KJV). When it came time to recruit those for whom the Church would be founded, He chose twelve men from the workplace - a fisherman, a tax collector, a doctor, and so on. They all came from the workplace. Everything about your life is spiritual and none is secular.

Tuesday
Godly Rewards

"You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out His requirements and going about like mourners before the Lord Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" - Malachi 3:14-15

Have you ever felt that serving God had little reward and the ungodly seemed actually to be more blessed than you? This is what the people of God of old also felt. God heard their cry and responded through the prophet Malachi to explain God’s view on this matter. Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honoured His name. "They will be Mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I take up My treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not" (Malachi 3:16-18).
Notice that after the people complained about this, they began to talk to each other, and the Lord listened and heard. God had been taking note of those who were serving Him and honouring Him. There is a day coming in which God will honour His "treasured possessions." We will see that there is a distinction between the righteous and the wicked.

**Wednesday**

**Anger Starts In The Heart**

“Whatever is in your heart determines what you say.” Matthew 12:34b (NLT)

A problem with anger isn’t going to be solved by a trip to the doctor. The real secret to managing anger is God’s power to change you on the inside. Romans 15:5 says, “May the patience and encouragement that come from God allow you to live in harmony with each other the way Christ Jesus wants” (NCV). How does God help you with your bad habit of anger? He goes straight to the heart of the problem, which is a problem in the heart. Anger doesn’t start in your attitude, your background, or your feelings. It starts in the heart.

Today’s Scripture tells us the source of anger. Our mouths just betray what we’re really like inside. Sometimes I hear people say something really mean or unkind and then they say, “Oh, I don’t know what got into me. That’s not like me.” Oh, yes it is you alright. Your mouth just reveals what is in your heart. Someone’s harsh tongue reveals an angry heart.

**Thursday**

**A Man Who Has God's Favour**

"...Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you."  Zechariah 8:23

Few men of God have become extraordinary people of faith without the influence of mentors. A mentor is one who takes responsibility for the spiritual and, sometimes, physical care of another. It requires a commitment from the teacher and the student. Elijah mentored Elisha. Elisha became one of the greatest prophets in the entire Bible. One of the primary reasons for this was Elisha’s hunger. Elisha wanted a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. It was this hunger that drove Elisha to be sold out to God's purposes for his life.

I have been privileged to have had many mentors throughout my spiritual life. In each stage of my journey, God brought new mentors who had unique gifts that the previous mentor did not have. God has given me the hunger to desire a double portion of those positive attributes of my mentors. Who are the people of God He has placed in your life? Are you learning from them? Are you seeking a double portion of their anointing?
Friday
Paneled Houses

"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"  Haggai 1:4

There is a crisis of grand proportions in the spiritual house of God today. The moral fibre of our world is being eroded. Greed, idolatry, sexual immorality and destructive pleasure are the gods of our day. And it is no different in the Body of Christ. Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," He said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers' " (Matthew 21:12-13).

Jesus came into Jerusalem and found the workplace believers buying and selling in the temple. As far as they knew, this was an acceptable practice in their day. Their fathers did it, and now they were doing it. It was business as usual. Jesus got angry, turned over the tables, and said that His house was a house of prayer. He found the workplace believers of the day seeing His house as a place for profit, not prayer. They had stepped into a place of complacency that was not acceptable to the Lord. When we begin to blend in with the moral condition of an ungodly world, we begin losing God's perspective on life. Let us wake up and follow the Lord.

Saturday
Confirmed by Others

"The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognised that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD" 1 Sam 3:19-20.

One of the test of Christian living is that we are surrounded by a host of witnesses both with and without. Prophet Samuel was both testified of by witnesses in and out. Many today in Church are neither here nor there. Many around them cannot clearly say who they believe in. That is the sad story of today’s Church people. We need to reflect and turn a new leaf.

As we mature in our natural and spiritual lives, God uses our parents, teachers, uncles, coaches and pastors to affirm the gifts and callings that are on our lives. At the time, it often seems like these people are trying to get in the way of what we want to do. However, God uses authority figures to provide key direction during the early teen and twenty-something years. He is using these people to help guide us to the ultimate destiny He has for our lives.

Sunday
Confirmed by Others

“Don’t copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” Romans 12:2 NLT
The way you express your displeasure and anger is a learned response. You didn’t just automatically choose it; somebody modelled it for you. Anger response is a learned response. The good news is you can unlearn it. You don’t have to stay that way. You can learn new patterns and habits. You don’t have to keep perpetuating what your parents and their parents and their parents did. Every time you get angry in an inappropriate way, you’re modelling it for your kids. You’re teaching them how to do it the wrong way, and they’re going to teach their kids how to do it the wrong way. Somebody has to stop the cycle!

Television and movies are filled with violent responses to people who are frustrated, hurt, or feel out of control. Kids learn from the models they observe. You don’t want to teach your kids wrong ways to be angry. The key to learning a new way to handle anger is in Romans 12:2: “changing the way you think.”