Monday
Focus on the Needful

"Dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42 NLT)

You and I love to overcrowd our lives. We overbook, overspend, overestimate, and we often walk around tired all the time. As a result, God’s truth often doesn't get the chance to blossom in our lives. Too often God teaches and reveals to you a kernel of truth - maybe through your morning devotion or a Sunday sermon — and you think you need to do something about it, but almost immediately it is crowded out of your life and forgotten. The truth is not necessarily crowded out of your life because of evil. Often, good things in our lives crowd out the truth that God wants to plant in us. To fulfill God’s destiny for your life, you likely do not have to do more; you have to do less. Take Jesus’ friends Mary and Martha for example. One day they invited Jesus over for dinner. Mary spent her evening listening to Jesus. Martha, on the other hand, was busy being a hostess and worrying about the hors d'oeuvres and whether everything was in its place. Martha got upset that she had to do all the work while her sister got to sit with Jesus. There is always time for everything my friend.

Tuesday
Depend on God

'...Your heavenly Father feeds them...' Matthew 6:26

A needy sparrow. Jesus said: 'Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you. Why do you
have so little faith?...These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

There are bound to be challenges in every facet of life - family, business, Church, community, etc. Today we need to proclaim that trusting in God is the best way to resolving these issues. If God will care for such things as contained in today’s Scripture, how much more will He care for you particularly if you depend on Him. Be assured that He will never fail you.

**Wednesday**

**One Flock, One Shepherd**

“I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” - John 10:16

A story is told about an experience that happened at some of the famous biblical sites. A shepherd brought his flock of sheep into a pen for the night. Then, a few minutes later, another shepherd brought his flock into the same pen. Then, a few minutes later, yet another shepherd brought his sheep into the pen. There were three groups of sheep in the pen with no identifying marks among any of them. One would wonder how in the world they would separate their sheep the next day.

The next morning, a shepherd came over to the pen and made a comment to his sheep. One by one, the sheep filed out to follow him. Only his sheep followed his voice. What a picture of Jesus' words spoken centuries earlier. Hearing and responding to Jesus' voice is the key to having a two-way relationship with God. It is the difference between having religion and a relationship. Can you recognise God’s voice in your life? Are you listening to the Shepherd's voice? Do you respond when He calls? He wants to be your Good Shepherd.

**Thursday**

**His Presence Makes The Difference**

“And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.” (Mal 3:18).

When Moses led the people out of Egypt he had several crisis moments during those forty years. His greatest crisis was when he came back from the mountain and discovered the people had
made a golden calf. It was after this he came to a profound conclusion. The difference between a Christian in the workplace and a non-believer should be that the Christian brings the presence of God with him to work. However, this is not always the case. A Christian can shut out the presence of God by his behaviour. Like the Israelites who experienced great miracles in their lives but began to worship idols, we can move away from God.

Sin separates us from God. His presence moves away from us. Moses realized, he too had to have the presence of God with him to lead such a people. The prophet Malachi was saying a day is coming when you'll be able to recognize a clear difference between the righteous and the unrighteous. Would your co-workers be able to recognize a difference in you from others? Ask God to fill you with His overflowing presence in all you do today. You need to proclaim Him loudly.

Friday
Don't Miss Jesus at Work

"If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." (John 4:10 NLT)

Often times, events and activities around us crowd out the presence of Jesus from our lives. There is always a special moment when God reveals the truth to us. Many individuals miss out on such truth as they are never ready to receive this truth. The woman of Samaria had an unusual encounter with the Master. She was obviously not expecting to meet the Jesus by any means. However, Jesus appeared unto her and from their discussions, she made herself available and consequently encountered Jesus and accepted Him as Savior and Lord.

She went out immediately sharing her experience and by extension, brought ‘many others’ into salvation in Christ. Can I ask you how long you have known the Lord?. Can I ask further, how many ‘souls’ have you brought to the Master? You cannot afford to keep wasting your time on irrelevancies and things that will not endure. Show forth Jesus to someone today and you will find yourself doing this regularly. Proclaim Him
Saturday
Fallen Sparrows

'...Not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.' Matthew 10:29

Great news: God knows when you fall, and His will is to lift you up again. Perhaps you were flying high, then you made a mistake. You were sabotaged by a secret struggle you could not share with anyone. Or your trust was devastated by someone you loved. As a result you are afraid to begin again; afraid you cannot overcome your past and rise again to fulfil your destiny. Regardless of how many times you've failed, God still loves you.

Have you been attacked in a specific area of your life and it's become an area of repeated failure? Have you asked yourself, 'What is this battle about?' Hear this: the battle is not over your past, it's over your future! That's why you are a target. And the God Who gave Peter and Jonah a second chance, will lift you from the ashes of failure and remake your life into something beautiful. God saw you when you fell, so there's no reason to try and hide from Him. Allow Him to lift you up again.

Sunday
Make Room for Jesus

"She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them." (Luke 2:7 NLT)

The coming of the eternal God and promised Messiah had been anticipated for thousands of years. Prophecies had foretold the truth that the Savior of the world would be coming. His birth would be so important that it would split history into B.C. and A.D. Your birthday is dated in relationship to the birthday of Jesus.

Yet when the Son of God came into the world, there was no room for him. The innkeeper missed a prime opportunity. If Jesus had been born in one of his rooms, the innkeeper could have built one of those big Las Vegas signs that points down and reads, “Son of God Born Here!” He could have charged a fortune for rooms! Instead he missed the biggest blessing of his life because he didn’t have room for Jesus. We can’t be too harsh on the innkeeper for not having room for Jesus. We do it all the time. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, ask yourself this question: Have you left room in your inn for Jesus?