

Series: "ALL DAY EVERY DAY"

For Message: Jeremiah 15:29a; Isaiah 26:3,9; Psalm 25:4, 118:24; Mark 1:35; Eph 3:17

Message Title: "Every Morning"

Introduction: Welcome to BMZ CHURCH! HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! Ok ... We are ONE WEEK into 2024 -- How MANY of you HAVE New Year's Resolutions? How MANY of you HAD New Year's Resolutions? Great!

Now, MANY people come up with New Years Resolutions / GOALS at the BEGINNING of the YEAR because it is a GOOD Natural TRANSITION to something NEW. And MANY people THINK about their HEALTH ... Eating and EXERCISE Resolutions / GOALS. I DO. I've THOUGHT about THOSE. Or MAYBE you've come up with MENTAL or EMOTIONAL HEALTH Resolutions. Maybe you have EDUCATIONAL GOALS ... READING a certain NUMBER of BOOKS or TAKING a CLASS.

BUT have you SET your FAITH GOALS / RESOLUTIONS for the YEAR of 2024? And here's the thing: FAITH is DIFFICULT to MAINTAIN or GROW in. FAITH Resolutions ... well, NOT MANY are DOING THEM, WHICH makes it HARD to SET and KEEP them. AT LEAST we HAVE EACH OTHER. Let's work TOGETHER to make sure we are ON TRACK with CHRIST as we go THROUGH 2024.

The HEART behind "**ALL DAY EVERY DAY**" is that we go DEEPER in our FAITH at the BEGINNING of 2024, which will HOPEFULLY Help us BE DEEPER in our FAITH at the END of 2024. Why? So, we GROW in our FAITH and SHARE it with OTHERS ... as we FIND THROUGHOUT the BIBLE. This is about ENGAGING our FAITH more CONSISTENTLY. NOT just on SUNDAYS, but ALL DAY ... EVERY DAY.

Now, the PLAN is NOT to make HUGE CHANGES and CREATE BRAND NEW ROUTINES. Actually, for MOST of US, NO MATTER WHERE we are AT in our FAITH JOURNEY, some SMALL ADJUSTMENTS can make BIG DIFFERENCES so our FAITH is REIGNITED ... and we can have a BETTER, more BLESSED and FAITHFUL LIFE.

Let's START with our KEY VERSE for this SERIES. It's from The OT PROPHET, JEREMIAH ... **JEREMIAH 15:19a = This is how the Lord responds: "If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me.**

I hope this is ENCOURAGING ... The LORD will RESTORE US to HIM so we can CONTINUE to SERVE HIM. Do you KNOW what that IS? When we RETURN to HIM, we are GROWING in our FAITH, right? And HOW do we SERVE HIM? SHARE HIM with OTHERS!

OK ... HOW can we GROW in our FAITH? As we GO THROUGH this SERIES, we will get to "**ALL DAY,**" but ... Let's KICK it OFF with MAKING SMALL ADJUSTMENTS to the START of our DAY. Let's START with the MORNING.

How to S.T.A.R.T. My Morning with God:

In your NOTES ... IF we are going to ENGAGE our LORD and FAITH ALL DAY, EVERY DAY ... well, that MEANS we are making our FAITH a HIGHER PRIORITY.

Listen, I'm NOT going to TELL you to GET UP at 4AM to have a TWO-HOUR QUIET TIME with The LORD (if you can, GREAT!), but LET'S MAKE SMALL ADJUSTMENTS at the BEGINNING of the DAY that will HELP US ALL DAY. PILOTS call this "**The 1 and 60 Rule**". IF you are 1 DEGREE OFF in your FLIGHT Navigation ... in 60 MINUTES, you will be a FULL MILE OFF COURSE.

SAME with our FAITH and our MORNINGS. IF we do NOT START ON TRACK, our CHANCES of INCLUDING GOD in our DAY gets WAY OFF COURSE! SO ... Here we GO ... some SMALL MORNING ADJUSTMENTS to KEEP us ON COURSE with GOD.

- **START My Morning the NIGHT Before.**

This does NOT MEAN you need to GET UP in the MIDDLE of the NIGHT. No. THIS is SIMPLY a REMINDER that HOW we END ONE DAY has a SIGNIFICANT IMPACT on HOW you BEGIN the NEXT DAY. Back to the Old Testament. The Prophet ISAIAH ... **ISAIAH 26:9a = In the night I search for you; in the morning I earnestly seek you.**

There is a CONNECTION between the END of ONE DAY and the BEGINNING of the NEXT. This is the ... **BEFORE my HEAD HITS the PILLOW at NIGHT** (pray / time with God) and **BEFORE my FEET HIT the FLOOR in the MORNING** (pray / time with God).

What we DO with the LAST MOMENTS before we FALL ASLEEP AFFECTS HOW we WAKE UP. SOMETIMES we can't SPEND any TIME with the LORD in the MORNING because we're TOO TIRED. These BODIES NEED 6-8 HOURS of SLEEP. IF you stay UP LATE watching the NEWS or NETFLIX or WHATEVER, you DON'T HAVE the ENERGY to FOCUS on your FAITH in the MORNING. SLEEP IN? On the FRONT END...

Here's a SUGGESTION: BEFORE you go to BED, LAY OUT what you NEED to make SURE you are READY to make your FAITH a PRIORITY in the MORNING. LAY out your DEVOTIONALS / BIBLE ... set them BY the COFFEE POT! PRAY as you GO to SLEEP for the NEXT DAY to be PLEASING to GOD. Okay ... #2 =

- **TALK to God BEFORE I Do Anything Else.**

BEFORE my FEET HIT the FLOOR ... WAIT! Pastor Stan, do you mean I should TALK to God BEFORE I check my EMAIL / TEXTS? Yes. BEFORE I turn on the NEWS or CHECK FACEBOOK? YES! BEFORE I talk to my SPOUSE / KIDS / SIBS? YES, YES, and YES! WHY? Because IF you talk to GOD FIRST, you will likely SAY FEWER DUMB / HURTFUL THINGS to the PEOPLE in your LIFE.

The FIRST few MINUTES of the DAY put the RUDDER in the WATER and GIVE DIRECTION to the REST of your DAY! JESUS did it ... **MARK 1:35 = Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray.**

FIRST things FIRST! And GOD comes FIRST IF He is to be our PRIORITY. Our CONVERSATION with GOD in the MORNING will SET the TONE for the REST of our CONVERSATIONS that DAY. Like JESUS, we HIT our KNEES BEFORE we STAND UP!

I WONDER if our DAY would GO BETTER IF we READ a VERSE of SCRIPTURE or a DEVOTION BEFORE we OPENED our PHONES and READ a TEXT, EMAIL, or SNAP?

START the day with TALKING to GOD and READING His WORD. Let's place GOD in a PRIORITY POSITION ... BEFORE ALL ELSE. WE NEED His WORD ... **PSALM 119:105 = Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.**

Let GOD'S WORD GUIDE your WHOLE DAY! #3 =

- **ASK How I Can IMPROVE My Morning Routine.**

I sometimes SKIP THIS because I HAVE a ROUTINE ... and I LIKE IT ... and I do NOT THINK about HOW to IMPROVE IT ... it's just ROUTINE. BUT now I need to THINK about HOW I can IMPROVE in 2024.

Maybe you HAD a ROUTINE that included your FAITH, but OVER TIME you've gotten AWAY from it. Time to ASK: HOW can I IMPROVE my ROUTINE? How can I IMPROVE my ROUTINE so I can BE MORE CONSISTENT? How can I STOP RUSHING every MORNING and TRYING to SQUEEZE in a QUICK READING? How can I IMPROVE?

Do you know WHAT? GOD KNOWS the ANSWER! So, we PRAY SCRIPTURE ... like the PSALMIST, we PRAY ... **PSALM 25:4 = *Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.*** Lord, WHAT can I CHANGE in MY MORNING ROUTINE so I'm PRIORITIZING my FAITH in YOU in 2024?

Now, SOME of you are NOT MORNING PEOPLE. It's OK. Stop FOOLING yourselves into THINKING you will start getting UP TWO HOURS EARLIER and SPEND an HOUR in your BIBLE in the MORNING! It's OK. Maybe you are BETTER / ALERT in the EVENING. It's OK. God created you that way. BUT what can you CHANGE in your MORNING ROUTINE to ENSURE you spend QUALITY TIME with the LORD in the EVENING? Maybe it's JUST a VERSE. MAYBE it's LISTENING to WORSHIP music while you get READY or EXERCISE. Maybe it's LISTENING to the SUNDAY SERMON AGAIN while you FIX the KID's LUNCHES. Develop a Morning Routine that WORKS for YOU, that you can STICK TO. THEN ... it does NOT STOP at the HOUSE ... #4 = "R"

- REFLECT on God During My COMMUTE.

Do you DRIVE to WORK or WALK to SCHOOL or the OTHER WAY around? This can be a GREAT TIME for POTENTIAL, CONSISTENT FAITH GROWTH! Is your COMMUTE PART of your MORNING ROUTINE, like EVERY DAY? You have an OPPORTUNITY to USE IT for FAITH GROWTH. Maybe it's a SHORT Commute, or MAYBE it's a LONGER COMMUTE. HOW can you USE it to PRIORITIZE your FAITH RELATIONSHIP with GOD every MORNING?

Your COMMUTE is your LAST MOMENTS ALONE(?) before you have OPPORTUNITIES to be a WITNESS to CHRIST with PEOPLE at WORK / SCHOOL / etc. WHAT you FOCUS ON during your COMMUTE will help DETERMINE your ATTITUDE as you WALK into WORK / SCHOOL. Will we TREAT EACH DAY as The PSALMIST wrote? **PSALM 118:24 = *This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

Holy Land TOUR ... **"THIS is the DAY!"** Every Day! SING it in your CAR or as you WALK! If you need me to RECORD it for you ... OR, what about PRAYING (do not close your eyes) for the PEOPLE at WORK or in the CARS around YOU? NOT ONE MERE MORTAL! God LOVES them ALL! LISTEN to WORSHIP MUSIC or the SERMON or a DEVOTIONAL BOOK. BUT do NOT WASTE the TIME ... part of your MORNING ROUTINE! How about THIS? HOW MANY of you could USE a BIT MORE PEACE as you HEAD INTO your DAY? Listen to the Prophet Isaiah again ... **ISAIAH 26:3 = *You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!***

Let's FIX our THOUGHTS on The LORD and our FAITH in HIM at the BEGINNING of EACH DAY. And FINALLY ... BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE #5 to start your day...

- TRUST God With My ENTIRE LIFE.

As we THINK about PRIORITIZING GOD in the MORNING ... let's REMEMBER that EVERY DAY is PART of LIFE. There is NO SUCH THING as "JUST ANOTHER DAY!" EVERY DAY is a GIFT from GOD and is a ONE-TIME OPPORTUNITY to SERVE HIM. WE NEVER GET YESTERDAY BACK. No **"DO OVERS."** Let's TREAT EACH DAY SPECIAL.

Today, we FOCUSED on the MORNING and STARTING our DAY FOCUSED on our FAITH RELATIONSHIP with GOD through CHRIST. But this SERIES (next 3 weeks) reminds us that EVERY DAY MATTERS. And EVERY DAY MATTERS for ETERNITY.

So, MY PRAYER for YOU and ME was PAUL'S PRAYER for the PEOPLE in EPHESUS ... **EPHESIANS 3:17 = *Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.***

The MORE we TRUST in HIM / Place our FAITH in HIM, the DEEPER our FAITH RELATIONSHIP with HIM. THAT'S the GOAL ... for 2024. Let's NOT MAKE this TOO DIFFICULT or BIG. Jeremiah said to SIMPLY RETURN to ME, and I will RESTORE YOU for SERVICE. OK ... let's RETURN to THE LORD. We can DO THAT with some SMALL ADJUSTMENTS in the MORNING. Can't do them all? NO PROBLEM! Do SOMETHING!

Our CLOSING VERSE reminds us to TRUST GOD with MY ENTIRE LIFE each MORNING ... **PSALM 143:8 = Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you.** That's a PRAYER YOU and I can PRAY EACH MORNING. Let's PRAY!

Next Steps: *I will Memorize Jeremiah 15:19a*
I will Read Ephesians 3
I will Begin Each Day This Week by Talking to God in Prayer.
Receive Information about being Baptized as a Believer Sunday, January 14th

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us! In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information.

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you. It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is HIT "**SEND**" your COMPLETED Connection Card

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- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... **PSALM 25:4 = Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.**
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the first place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- NEXT WEEK: **NEW in 2024 ... Let's GO DEEPER into our FAITH ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."

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