



TWCC Sermon Connection Handout

Sunday, June 9th, 2019

Sermon Title: "Weapons of Mass Distraction" (*Don't lost your FAITH, your FOCUS or you FAITHFULNESS*) by Pastor Ed Woodus

Opening Scripture Text: Read Matthew 14:22 – 32 (NKJV)

- Jesus sent His disciples on a journey to _____ and a wind arose to stop them.
- Peter's miracle walk was interrupted by a _____. Distractions are a tool of the enemy to get our minds off from God's agenda and onto something else.
- **Distract** – *to draw the sight, mind, or attention in different directions; to perplex; to confuse.*
- Distractions come to hijack our _____, harm our _____, hinder our _____ and force it to a different assignment. ***DISTRACTIONS ARE THE DESTRUCTION OF YOUR DREAM IN SLOW MOTION.*** Its purpose is the take you away for your God-given and God-intended _____.
- Distractions come via family/friends, promotions, relationships, bad reports, money, offense, gossip...but there are four weapons that cause ***DISTRACTION TO THE MASSES.***

DISTRACTION #1 – THE STRANGE WOMAN OR THE STRANGE MAN

- **Proverbs 2:16 – 19 (NLT)** – *"¹⁶ Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman, from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman. ¹⁷ She has abandoned her husband and ignores the covenant she made before God. ¹⁸ Entering her house leads to death; it is the road to the grave. ¹⁹ The man who visits her is doomed. He will never reach the paths of life."*
- The Bible has _____ warnings regarding the opposite sex. **1 Corinthians 6:18 (KJV)** – *"Flee Fornication..."*
- **Fornication (Gr. Porneia)** – *inappropriate sexual activity; refers to ALL sexual activity outside of a God-ordained marital union and includes adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, pedophilia, bestiality, incest, and any other sexual contact that is not between a married husband and wife.*
- **Read Proverbs 5:3 – 5 (NLT)**
- **(Proverbs 7:6 – 27)** - Even relationships that remain sexually pure, still have to fight to avoid it becoming idolatry.
- **Dangers of the Strange Woman/Man**
- **#1) CAUSES US TO _____ GOOD SENSE. (Proverbs 30:18 – 20 (NLT))**

- **QUOTE:** _____ connections, disguised as _____ connections will cause you to make decisions that are as bad or worse than a stone-cold drunk.
- **#2) CAUSES US TO _____ WHAT MATTERS MOST. Read 2 Samuel 11:1 – 5 NLT**
 - Our family, marriage, friendships, career, ministry, etc are typically the things we say matter most.
 - **QUOTE:** "When you avoid the battle you were _____ for you face a battle that you are not _____ and equipped for." Am I willing to sacrifice THIS in order to enjoy THAT??"
- **#3) THERE IS NO _____ END.**
- **Winning the Battle of the Strange Woman or Man: (1) _____ it – Psalm 51:17 (NLT) (2) _____ it – Matthew 5:29, 30 (NKJV); Proverbs 6:27, 28 (MSG) - "27Can you build a fire in your lap and not burn your pants? 28Can you walk barefoot on hot coals and not get blisters?" (Take Drastic Measures: Move, Change Jobs, Get Off Social Media, etc.) and (3) _____ for it – James 5:16 (MSG) - "Make this your COMMON PRACTICE: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed..." Live in accountability – 4 Areas of Biblical Accountability: (#1) Your **CHARACTER** (#2) Your **CALLING** (#3) Your **CONDUCT** and (#4) Your **COVENANT [COMMITMENTS]**.**

DISTRACTION #2 – THE DEATHTRAP OF RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

- **Read Romans 10:1 – 10, 13 (NLT)**
- Paul's cry for his people was for them to really know the living God and not be blinded by their own _____ effort that continually searches for a way to "get right with God."
- This is the DEATHTRAP OF RELIGION and it distracts from a real _____ with God.
- **Religion** – rigid adherence to a set of beliefs or practices with the expectation that stellar obedience will result in a favorable relationship with God.
- Religion comes from the Latin word **religare** and it means "to tie, to bind, or to moor."
- Religion seeks to tie, bind, or moor us to God by a certain set of lifeless beliefs, rules and practices.
- Jesus came to introduce us to a _____ **RELATIONSHIP** with a loving Heavenly Father.
- **Matthew 6:9 (NKJV); John 10:30, 31 (NKJV); John 16:27 (NKJV)**
- **ONE CATCH: John 14:6 (NIV)** – "Jesus answered, I am THE way and THE truth and THE life. No one comes to the **Father** except through Me."
- Religion gets drunk on man's _____ of expression instead of seeking life-giving **RELATIONSHIPS** and **RESULTS**. Religious Tradition trains us to be **RELIGIOUSLY** CORRECT and not **RIGHTEOUSLY** CONNECTED. Religion magnifies _____ over and before RELATIONSHIPS!
- Human nature tends to build an altar at our _____, at the expense of leading people into a genuine **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus. This nature puts DOING right over BEING right with God and other Christians. **Two Trees: Read Genesis 2:8, 9 (NLT)**

DISTRACTION #3 – THE PAIN OF THE MOMENT (DISCOURAGEMENT & DEPRESSION)

- There appears to be an uptick in depression and mental illness in our society and it is even having an effect on children/teens. It is estimated that **300 million people** around the world battle depression.
- **Depression** – a mood disorder characterized by anhedonia, extreme sadness, poor concentration, sleep problems, loss of appetite, and feelings of guilt, helplessness, and hopelessness. • We must come to the revelation that "It's okay to not be okay."
- **Isaiah 61:1 – 4 (NKJV)** – Discouragement and Depression (called a "Spirit of Heaviness") is a _____ from the ultimate mission God has for our lives.

DISTRACTION #4 – DIGITAL DISTRACTION