

Bishop Bronner - 11/24/24 - Mark 4:26-29 - The Power of Discipline

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10:05 AM

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•Mark 4:26-29

“Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.””

Every Christian needs discipline to be able to be faithful in your commitments to Jesus Christ.

- Discipline builds us towards excellence.
- Discipline happens when you feel like it or not.
- If you’re expecting a harvest you have to be diligent and disciplined in sowing a seed.
- You should be working on something every day.
- When you first open your eye in the morning you should be disciplined in telling God thank you for waking you up. Thank you for your all that you have.
- You have what you say. You sow seeds with your words. Sow seeds with your words that you want to grow.
- You’re reaping the harvest of your words.
- Don’t dig up in doubt what you planted in faith.
- Discipline is our safeguard from overindulgence. Discipline means
- Not eating all you want to eat
- Not staying up all night
- Not sleeping all day long
- Remaining consistent when you don’t feel like it.
- Leaving room for God to show up in unique ways in your life
- Discipline builds Character, Resilience, Self-Confidence
- You will either have the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.
- Proverbs 29:18 “When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.” KJV “Where there is no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”
- When you have a vision you are disciplined to work on the vision.
- When you have no vision you have nothing to be disciplined about.
- Don’t condemn people for running wild. Help them to dream. Help them to get a vision. Expose them to things that would help them dream and get vision.
- Your vision (your prophetic revelation) will help you remain disciplined. Your vision reminds you when you’re doing these that are not in line with your vision.
- Philippians 2:12-13 “Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”
- God gives you the desire and the power to fulfill the desire.
- Through prayer, Bible study, serving others and healthy Christian fellowship, we posture our lives in ways that make room for God’s spirit to transform us.
- Discipline is a sacrifice and requires a sacrament
- A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. Sacraments make

grace tangible, revealing Gods presence in our material world.

- Sacrifice is something that you do.
- With sacrifice and sacraments we create the right conditions for growth.
- We're not responsible for the growth. We plant the seed and water it and create the atmosphere for growth
- Spiritual disciplines alone can do nothing, but they can get us to the place where something can be done.
- We grow more spiritually by doing it wrong than doing it right. We engage Gods grace when we do wrong. We never experience grace if we never do anything wrong.
- A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing
- You don't drift to be godly. You have to be intentional. You have to train yourself for it.
- 1 Timothy 4:7-8 "Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.""
- Discipline Involves
 - Consistency - following through with actions repeatedly over time
 - Focus - prioritizing tasks and goals despite distractions
 - Accountability - taking responsibility for one's actions
 - We don't have to be smarter than the rest. We have to be more disciplined than the rest
 - Discipline will beat out giftedness over time
 - Hebrews 2:1 "So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."
 - The greatest form of self love is self discipline
 - Proverbs 29:11 "Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back."
 - Self respect is the highest form of self love/ self discipline.
 - Respect your self and hold your tongue.
 - Whenever you take a road of discipline and self respect prepare yourself for loneliness. Loneliness is the price you pay for self discipline.
 - You don't have time to address everyone's comments about you.
 - Hebrews 12:7-11 "As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4TPT "For the time is coming when they will no longer listen and respond to the healing words of truth because they will become selfish and proud. They will seek out teachers with soothing words that line up with their desires, saying just what they want to hear. They will close their ears to the truth and believe nothing but fables and myths."
 - Intentionality means you set your mind on something beyond where you are
 - Colossians 3:1-2 "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth."
 - Thoughts become words, words become actions, actions become habits, habits become character.
 - Whatever informs you is what forms you.
 - What you speak from your mouth, hear through your ears, see through your eyes and feel in your heart are doorways to your spirit.
 - The road to hell feels like heaven. It feels good doing wrong. The road to heaven feels like hell. It feels bad being disciplined and doing right.

- Don't be fooled by what feels good.
- One of the greatest display of Gods love for us is when he disciplines us. He disciplines those who he loves.