

#7 Northside Natter

6 May, 2020

Today I'm having a cursory look at **Walk Traps**.

I came across a little article the other day that suggested there were two things that can adversely affect our walk in the Lord. My first reaction was; only two? In that case, I've got this covered. However, I thought about those two suggestions a bit more and realised that they were indeed very valid reasons, if not the only ones, that can derail a perfectly good walk in the Lord.

The two things suggested were: boredom and busyness.

Let's look at boredom first. Sometimes, we can feel a little ho-hum about the repetitious process of meetings and gatherings and talks and chit-chat and cups of tea and endless activities and ... Yes, at times, we can feel bored and it can feel like drudgery.

When we feel lack-lustre about things, we have to look *internally*. We have been doing this for a long time now – some of us for over 30 years. What has kept us here this long? I would have to answer: the Lord, along with his promises and a better life than one without him. Doesn't the Word of God still excite and inspire us? Of course, it does. Then why the lack-lustre feeling about the processes?

Perhaps something else has slipped in, unnoticed, and excited us a little bit more and we feel that's what we would rather be doing. We don't have to give up a new-found activity that we can enjoy. But we do need to schedule it outside meeting times. Everything in moderation and balance. What if it can't be rescheduled to another time? In that case, give it up. We don't need it in our life, but we do need the Lord. The decision rests on 'eternal life versus eternal death'. Make sure God comes first.

Or perhaps there's been an emotional turmoil from some quarter in our personal life and we're having trouble resolving that and it's now spilling over into our walk with God. We may feel, 'what's the point?' We may feel like – dullsville around here. Think I'll move on to some other church with more *pizzazz*. We may even feel abandoned by church friends because they make light of our hurt. Or maybe we even feel God has abandoned us. Many thoughts go through our heads, except the truth.

God has not abandoned us. He never will. Moving off to another church (with *pizzazz*) is just changing the scenery and taking our problems with us. The same thing will invariably happen again sometime in the future and then where will we be? Church hopping? We are here to learn to manage ourselves, and our problems, and to help others to do the same. So, stick with it and work through the issues. Ask for help, or a friendly ear if we need. It's amazing how talking about the hurt, or problem, with someone we trust can help us to find a solution, conclusion, or change of attitude.

Note to self: Boredom is always related to a change in our **attitude**. Choose to change the attitude back and walk on with God. Yes, it's a choice thing. We can fix the whole problem in an instant of thought. Just choose to. (Read **Psalm 16:5-11** to remind ourselves why we chose God).

Now let's look at busyness. We are an incredibly busy civilisation. Technology has made it possible for us to fill our lives to the brim with an abundance of diversions, and we can entirely miss what's going on out in the real world.

This 'busyness' phenomenon can also happen in the church. Jesus told Martha that she was so busy fussing about with serving him, and his companions, that she couldn't relax and 'be in the moment' with them. Martha wasn't 'visiting' with Jesus. She was missing out on the conversation and the close relationship.

Maybe we're a Martha, someone who loves to serve others, and always busily 'doing' for the church. It's easy to think that if we don't do it, it won't get done properly. We may be right. But if it always takes us away from 'being in the moment' with God and his Saints, then maybe we need to rethink our Martha-ism.

Martha-ism is about priorities.

I found this online the other day. It's a copy of an ad in the Quay County Sun newspaper from June 1978:

"Farmer with 160 irrigated acres wants marriage-minded woman with tractor. When replying, please show picture of tractor."

Clearly, this guy had his priorities all sorted!

Sitting quietly at Jesus's feet and listening to what he has to say, as well as hearing the discussion between the disciples, is where Mary chose to be. If we are always missing meetings because we are doing jobs in the church, then we need to let go and delegate.

If we're not in the meetings:

- we are missing out on instruction, or the teachings of Christ, that lead to eternal life
- we never get to hear the Gifts or learn who needs our prayer
- we are missing out on the big picture in our church family
- we don't get to build those really solid relationships that help our walk

Our priority should be those things that lead to eternal life. If we're one of those people who loves to serve others, be circumspect about it. We can't martyr our walk to Martha-ism.

So, there we have it. Just two things that can affect our walk in the Lord and yet so easily fixed. Ensure we have a good attitude at all times, regardless of what happens in our life, don't miss out while serving others and be mindful that God is our first priority.