

Keeping Our Distance

Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:54-62

Peter's Claim ... Peter's Actions

- "I will never fall away ... even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You" - Matthew 26:33-35
- He was ready to go - John 13:36-37
- In reality, Peter tried to keep his distance - Luke 22:54

Others Who Kept Their Distance

- Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus - John 19:38-39
- Jonah - Jonah 1:3
- David - 2 Samuel 6:8-10
- The "older brother" - Luke 15:25-28
- All the disciples - Matthew 26:56

Our Responsibility

- Not through words but actions
- If there's a distance between us and God ... who moved?
- Beware of drifting - Hebrews 2:1
- Examine our self - 2 Corinthians 13:5
- What else are we distancing ourselves from that may be impacting how close we are to God?

Distancing Ourselves From God's Word

- Are we as close as we should be?
- How full are we? Colossians 3:16; 1:9
- What's separating us from His word? Hebrews 12:1
- Worried and bothered about so many things? Luke 10:41-42
- It's a time thing - Ephesians 5:15

Distancing Ourselves From Prayer

- Communication is critical in relationships
- No elaboration needed - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- It's a devotion thing - Colossians 4:2

Distancing Ourselves From Our Brethren

- Keeping from our brethren is to distance ourselves from God
- Our relationships with each other matter. Matthew 25:40, 45
- We're to be dependent on one another – Ephesians 2:19-21; 4:15-16; Colossians 2:2
- We're here to help encourage/"provoke" one another to draw near – Hebrews 10:24

Distancing ourselves from those we need to serve

- Do we steer clear of opportunities to serve others? Luke 10:30-37
- When did we have the opportunity? Matthew 25:37
- What about those who aren't like us? James 2:1-5

Distancing Ourselves From Repentant Brethren

- Satan's temptation – 2 Corinthians 2:5-11
- They need our forgiveness, comfort, encouragement and love.

Distancing Ourselves From The Lost

- Granted, our closest relationships are not to be with those who walk in darkness – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- But are we distancing ourselves from those who so desperately need the light of the gospel? Luke 19:10; 18:13; Matthew 20:28
- Jesus was criticized for not keeping enough distance. Matthew 9:10-13; Luke 7:36-39
- Are there some we deem unworthy? Acts 10:34-35; James 2:1-5; Jonah

How Near Do You Want To Be?

- James 4:8-9
- What's separating you from God right now? Isaiah 59:1-2
- What will bridge that chasm? Ephesians 2:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21