



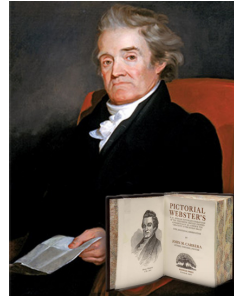
Today's Lesson

Waiting Till It's Perfect

Power Point notes available at:

www.unityofbakersfield.org

Waiting Till It's Perfect



Noah Webster defined perfect as being, "complete in every detail; without defect; flawless; exact; precise."

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One of the things about the human condition and our desire for perfection is that it often ends up like this...



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Charles Fillmore said, "Perfection is an elusive goal, mainly because no one knows what it really is. Many think of a perfectionist as being one who is highly skilled, who demands the best from himself and others - and usually gets it. The psychological definition is a little different."

Waiting Till It's Perfect



"A perfectionist invariably demands more of any given situation than the situation itself calls for. Consequently, he lives in the land of 'never enough.' He may find it difficult to function at all. Content yourself with what is good and you will behold improvement coming to meet you."

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Where did this idea that everything has to be perfect before it can be any good? Based on the following conversation that was overheard in the maternity ward of a local hospital it may have come from our parents:

Young Parents: Nurse, what is the most difficult thing for young parents to learn?

Nurse: That other people have perfect children too.

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There is nothing wrong with wanting things in our lives to be perfect, to want the very best for ourselves and our loved ones.

However, the concept that everything must be perfect before we can do anything, have anything, be anything, is one of our road blocks that keeps us from experiencing the good God has for us right now.

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History tells us that the Hebrew people were looking for God to send the perfect man, the Messiah, to come save them. Many thought Jesus was that man. That he would bring God's kingdom to earth and overthrow the Roman Empire.

However, Jesus didn't see it that way and told them so.

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Jesus explaining where to find the kingdom of heaven, "They will they say, 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." Luke 17:21

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So if the kingdom of Heaven is perfect, and the kingdom is within me, then I am perfect, right?

As God sees us, we are. As we see ourselves, that's where the problem lies. And in his parables Jesus tried to help us see it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matt 13:45

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According to Jesus then we have within us a "pearl of great price." So perfect in every way that nothing else of value can match it.

Charles Fillmore thought so too and taught: *"The Christ is the perfect God idea, which is ever in touch with its source (God). The Christ within us is the perfect ideal, and humanity is that ideal on the way of realization."*

"Humanity is that ideal on the way of realization." So perfection lies in our realization, our concepts, our beliefs of ourselves and our world, that bring us closer to God or push us farther away.

Waiting Till It's Perfect

Why is it that we, as spiritual beings, have such a hard time incorporating the ideas of God's perfection for us into our lives? Let's look at how "waiting till it's perfect" may have been placed in our subconscious.

Parents: "Why can't you be more like Don't you know perfect children never cause their parents problems?"

School: "You're not perfect if you don't get 100% on all your tests. That's not perfect, do it over"

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Television: "If you want perfect breath, hair, skin, you have to use this product."

The Boss: "If you can't do it perfect (my way), you're out of here."

Magazines: "To find that perfect man or woman you need this or that. And this is what the perfect women, perfect man should look like."

Ego: "You idiot, everyone is smarter, taller, thinner, they're perfect and you're not, so why are you even trying?"

Waiting Till It's Perfect

We all want the perfect job, the perfect relationship, the perfect friend or spouse, the perfect home, the perfect life.

However, we are looking for that perfection in the world outside of ourselves, in the constantly changing world of sense consciousness. True perfection lies within us, not in the things outside of ourselves.

We have everything within us right now to have all that is perfect, because we have the kingdom of Heaven within us, we have the image and likeness of God, we have the Christ within us.

Waiting Till It's Perfect



Here are 9 things that can help anyone strive for progress in breaking the perfectionist pattern of waiting till it's perfect:

1. I will get what I need with the help of God, as I begin the process of understanding myself and others.

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2. I will begin to change how I think and feel about the experiences in my life.

3. I will reach out to others and not drive myself crazy by comparing myself to others.

4. I can choose to feel good about the choices I have made and not beat myself up.

5. I refuse to live from crisis to crisis by projecting negativity into the future. As Mark Twain once remarked, "I've suffered a lot of catastrophes in my life -- many of which never occurred!"

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6. Right or wrong I will take the actions I need to take so that I can move forward and get on with my life.
7. I set my own goals about what I want and where I am going.
8. I will love my inner child by actively going after those things it did not get the first time around.
9. I will set clear and distinct boundaries, which others cannot cross. It has been said that, "there are no victims, only volunteers."

Waiting Till It's Perfect

Changing our thoughts, beliefs, and habits is a process. And part of the process is incorporating this basic idea from the writer of Proverbs 4:7: *Whatever you are going after remember that wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

