

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys under a clear sky.

Dealing with Distractions

**“If the enemy can’t destroy you, he will
distract you.”**

**“If Satan cannot have your heart, he’ll do his
best to distract you.”**

**“When the enemy sends distractions, they
never look like distractions until they are
finished distracting you.”**

How Distraction Works?

1. Our Actual Self

James 1:22-25

2. Our Desires

James 1:14-15

3. Our Rhythm

James 5:7-8

What are the Dangers of Distractions?

1. Esau

Gen. 25: 29-34 NLT

²⁹ One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, “I’m starved! Give me some of that red stew!” ... ³¹ “All right,” Jacob replied, “but trade me your rights as the firstborn son.” ³² ***“Look, I’m dying of starvation!” said Esau. “What good is my birthright to me now?”***

³³ But Jacob said, “First you must swear that your birthright is mine.” ***So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob.*** ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. ***He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.***

Note: ‘Stew’ over Savior! Jacob never got it back.

2. Young Prophet

1 kings 13:1...18 NLT

¹ At the LORD's command, a man of God from Judah went to Bethel... ² ***Then at the LORD's command, he shouted...*** ⁸ But the man of God said ...“Even if you gave me half of everything you own, I would not go with you. I would not eat or drink anything in this place. ⁹ ***For the LORD gave me this command: ‘You must not eat or drink anything while you are there, and do not return to Judah by the same way you came.’”***

¹¹ As it happened, there was an old prophet living in Bethel... ¹⁸ But the old prophet answered, “I am a prophet, too, just as you are. ***And an angel gave me this command from the LORD: ‘Bring him home with you so he can have something to eat and drink.’”*** But the old man was lying to him.

***Note: ‘Message’ over Messenger!
Young Prophet remained unnamed and died***

3. Saul

1 Sam 15:2-3, 9 NLT

² This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. ³ ***Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys.***

⁹ Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. ***They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality...***

***Note: 'Loot' over Lasting Kingdom!
Saul never got it back***

4. Martha

Luke 10:38-42 NLT

³⁸ As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ ***Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught.*** ⁴⁰ ***But Martha was distracted*** by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, ***you are worried and upset over all these details!*** ⁴² There is ***only one thing*** worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

*Note: 'Busyness' over Discipleship
Martha missed the Class*

How to Deal with Distractions?

Let's learn from Jesus.

- 1. Determination (He knew His primary assignment)**
- 2. Devotion (His desire was to please the Father)**
- 3. Discernment (He discerned an opportunity v's obstacle)**
- 4. Discipline (He prayed fervently and on his own)**
- 5. Direction (He was led by the Holy Spirit)**

What do we need? Mercy and Wisdom

- King David... Bathsheba: Self-gratification Over God's Character
David received Mercy but there were consequences
- Apostle Peter... Doubt: Wind Over Word of God
Peter received Help from drowning
- King Nebuchadnezzar...Pride: Praise of men over the warnings of God
He received Mercy after 7 years
- Apostles... Service: Serving bread over teaching the Word
They applied Wisdom by appointing Deacons
- Nehemiah...Building: Attending to oppositions over continuing work
He applied wisdom by refusing distraction

1 John 5:21 NLT

²¹ “Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts.”

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys. The scene is captured in a soft, late-afternoon light.

Dealing with Distractions