

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "Getting It Into Focus!!"

We pray this Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message from our Pastor.

Yours in Christ,

LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

Getting It Into Focus!

Mark 2:21-22

Most people live a life that is unfocused but for the life of a Christian this should not be so. In **Galatians 5:22**, one of the fruit of the Spirit is **self-control**. There are so many distractions in the world that you may find yourself unfocused. In 2017 many people have made New Year's Resolutions and before June those empty statements of change will be placed back on the shelf. In order to see change in your life everything you do must start and end with God. His grace has been made available to you to help you make changes with ease but you must be willing to stay focused and practice self-control. We started off 2017 with a fast. A fast is a temporary break from something. The reason for the fast is to draw closer to God. It helps remove barriers that have kept you from clearly hearing what God has said. It strengthens you spiritually, then emotionally, then mentally and then physically. The fast will help you focus. Focus brings structure and order. Again, God will not bring in the new thing if you still have an old 2016 mindset.

What Has Changed?

In **Mark 2**, it speaks of trying to mix the new with the old. Ultimately what God is saying here is, "It won't work!" There have been some things in 2016 that worked for you but in 2017 God is saying "I am taking you to the next level and what worked in 2016 will not work in 2017." It's time to lay some things aside. In this scripture it tells you that if you try to mix the new with the old, the old will be destroyed. Will you continue to mix the new with the old in 2017? Are you rigid, so stubborn and stiff that God will not be able to do that new thing in your life because you refuse to let go of the old? God is not expecting you to make these changes over night but God is expecting you to start each day with Him and take things one day at a time. Your today is not for today it is a deposit into your tomorrow. Take time to learn who you are in Christ and embrace the changes God is making in you. Don't allow fear to stop you! The one thing that will be constant in life whether you decide to embrace it or not is **change!**

Preparation Time

In the beginning (**Genesis 1**) the earth was out of focus but God began by speaking things into order. His first act was to shed light on darkness. You as begin to prepare for the growth and changes God makes in 2017 allow God to illuminate your life. Allow God to shine light on the dark areas, the areas you may not think about. When you allow God to be involved in the changes you make you are allowing Him to put chaotic behaviors and lifestyles in order. This is not to say that God will do all the work for you. God will never do what He has already done and He will never do your part. In 2017 these changes will take your participation and you putting things into action. Illumination will allow you to regain your focus. If your focus is not right you will keep the same issues you have always had; those feelings of being overwhelmed and frustrated. In life you will constantly restructure and re-evaluate your lifestyle. Today you may find yourself doing a lot of right things without getting the right results. So you find yourself going to God and supplying Him with the list of all the things that

you are doing. Your answer is not found in the statements you are making to God but the answer will be found in asking God the right question...**"What should I be doing God?"** Are you holding on to what you did instead of embracing what you need to be doing? You have a responsibility and that means there is a part for you to do.

Can You Handle The Blessing?

Everything that God gives us He first prepares us to be able to receive it. Are you living like you can handle the blessing? With every blessing there is also a responsibility or what some may call the burden. Everything comes with a price. What are you willing to pay? Anytime you take on a new blessing it will require some work. You may have found yourself desiring more in life and God has the resources to get you there but are you being faithful over what God has given you? What has your focus? In **1st Kings 10:4**, you can see a glimpse of Solomon's lifestyle. He was admired for the way his house was in order. His house was in order because he walked in wisdom. His focus was right. In the Bible you also see what happens to a person who has the wrong focus just read about the Pharisees. They always missed Christ because they found themselves focused on this instead of that. They had their own agenda and were not focused on the things of God. After preparing for the blessing always keep yourself in the position where God can use you. Be available for His use! Make up your mind and don't be double minded. When you give God first place, when He is your Alpha and Omega your life will fall into place.

What you have now in life is a reflection of what you think about yourself. Don't be lackadaisical about your life! What you think you deserve what you think you can do and what you think you can't do; will be seen in what you accomplish in 2017. Learn to push pass your past mistakes and failures. (**See Philippians 3:12-14**) Learn to live beyond how you feel. Just because you like it doesn't mean you should keep doing it. You have to focus in order to get the blessing instore for you. Start off by giving your life to Christ and then allow Him to illuminate your life and prepare you for the blessings. It all begins and ends with the light of His love!

