



SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

Got Milk?

1 Peter 2:1-3

NOTES INTRODUCTION I hear so many Christians today express concern about the way our culture is increasingly rejecting biblical Christianity. I share the same concern, but honestly, I am a lot more concerned about evangelical Christians rejecting the Bible. I don't mean that Christians reject the truth of the Bible, but they reject time in the Bible. It's like when you try to give a baby a bottle, but they refuse to drink it. You know it's what they need to grow stronger, but for some reason, they don't want it. We've got milk (in the Word of God). We are just not drinking it. And because we are not, we are starving ourselves of direction in how to walk, wisdom in how to think, and guidance in how to live. I want to share with you today three habits we need to develop if our relationship with God is going to be as rich, as powerful, and as meaningful as it should be. **KEY POINTS** 1. We Must Develop A Heart For God's Word The Bible is a different kind of book from any other book that has ever been written because you don't primarily read the Bible with your eyes; you primarily read the Bible with your heart. Because of that, we have got to make sure our hearts are remaining pure. And to do that, we must rid ourselves of anything that would clog up our spiritual ears from hearing what God has to say. When you read the Bible with a clean heart, God not only tells you what to do, but when you do what God tells you to do, then you won't want to do what He doesn't want you to do. When you are doing what He wants you to do, and not doing what He doesn't want you to do, then you have a heart to hear what He has to say. 2. We Must Desire A Hunger For God's Word God wants to feed you a good spiritual square meal every day of your life, but as we all know, no matter how good the meal is, how well cooked the vegetables are, or how well-grilled the steak is, if you aren't hungry, you won't eat it. There is nothing wrong with the food in the Bible. It is literally a buffet of blessings. The problem is there is something wrong with our appetite.

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We need to quit living off mental and spiritual junk food, which is all you are going to get from television, the internet, and social media. Those things will leave you hungry no matter how much you eat and drink from them. The only thing that will satisfy what your soul is hungry for is the Word of God.

3. We Must Devote A Hearing For God's Word

The real reason why so many people have no appetite for the Word of God is that they have no appetite for the God of the Word. If you will taste and see that the Lord is good, you will love God. When you really begin to love God, it sets off a chain reaction. When you love God, you will love the Word of God.

But to do that, you must devote time to reading His Word and listening for Him to speak to you through His Word. It requires you to seek Him out so that you can get spiritually fed. He's not going to force-feed you. It's up to you to open your Bible and carve out time to spend with your Heavenly Father so He can fill you up with all that you are hungering and searching for.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How many	days	a week do y	ou spend ti	me in the	Word of God?
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2. If you're not currently spending time every day reading your Bible, what is keeping you from doing so? How can you eliminate or at least minimize this distraction?

When you do read your Bible, what is driving you to do so? Do you read out of obligation or do you read out of love for your Savior?

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