

Southern Adventist University

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

1-21-2020

Devices

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“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13

Devices

I may be very late to the game but I recently, over Christmas break, discovered the most wonderful thing—turning off my email notifications on my smartphone. I confess, I’m a notification-aholic. I just can’t stand seeing the red dot, I must make it go away. But over the holidays, I simply forgot to even check my email most of the time because I wasn’t being tempted every time I picked up my phone. No wonder there’s a bite taken out of the apple on the back of my phone. Just as Eve was tempted away from God’s best plan for her life, we feel the temptation too.

Wendy Speake says, “Our smartphones can keep us connected to the world, but they cannot keep us connected to Christ. They can keep track of our schedules, but they cannot order our priorities. They can play praise music with a single voice command, but they cannot fill our souls with praise.”

Jesus called Himself the living water—water that is completely cleansing and completely satisfying. So why am I so eager to forsake His life-giving water and go looking for satisfaction from other things?

Psalm 81:7-12 records Gods saying:

“In your distress you called and I rescued you,

I answered you out of a thundercloud;

I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—

if you would only listen to me, Israel!

You shall have no foreign god among you;

you shall not worship any god other than me.

I am the Lord your God,

who brought you up out of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

“But my people would not listen to me;

Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.”

To the Israelites God offered “Open wide your mouth and I will fill it,” but they turned away and looked for other things, foreign gods, to fill them up. So God gave them up to their own “devices” the NIV translation states.

There’s a notable similarity between the people of Israel and those of us so attached to our technology today. Of course it’s not the only meaning of the word “devices” but it is what we call our smartphones, tablets, computers and iPads. Though tools for connection and productivity, they can become our electronic, foreign gods, dividing us from the one true God.

In the last few weeks of the new year, God has ushered me into even more freedom by empowering me to turn off the notifications on all my social media and work-related apps. None of these things are inherently bad, but they have divided me from God too often, and I have found myself drinking from their broken cisterns for living water.

What is keeping you divided from God? What broken cisterns are you turning to for satisfaction instead of drinking from Jesus who can make your joy complete? **As you make the Main Thing, the main thing this week, may you drink deeply of the living water that only Jesus can provide!**

Challenge & Upcoming Events:

- **Ask God to show you what devises are dividing you from Him and consider fasting from them.**
- Join us for **Vespers this Friday at 7:30pm** in the University Church followed by **GroupLink**-sign up to be a part of a [LifeGroup](#)!
- **Student Week of Prayer** is next week! Our theme this year is “Again & Again” - Come join us in the University Church sanctuary each night from 8-9pm to ground yourself in Jesus!

-Anna Bennett