

## “NO QUICK FIX”

These days with the vast exposure to varying media outlets information is dispensed in great quantities and at great speed. There is something for everyone of every nationality, gender, taste, geographic location, and so on within a click of a mouse or changing of a channel. As a result, infomercials have grown exponentially over the last decade because of the ability to reach many markets with many different people who have an assortment of needs, interests, and buying power. Although the products or services that most of the infomercials that I have seen do have value, most, quite frankly, propose quick fix or temporary answers to a need. Their product or service in and of itself is but a small part of the solution and cannot provide long lasting change or support. The machine that promises to cook every meal perfect in 20 minutes or less may not solve the greater issue of the need to either learn to cook or better time management or activity prioritizing. The fabulous new workout machine or routine may help burn fat and help you lose weight but without a sensible diet and proper nutrition your results will be short term. A quick speed reading course may help you read faster but will it allow you to absorb the full meaning and appreciation of the text? The examples are many that I could cite, yet, I'll reiterate that these quick fixes as such will not on their own provide the long term, life changing, and impact-filled resource that is needed to truly experience a worthwhile change. In fact, they will serve for the time being until the next new deal is revealed, then it is on to that one because the heart of the matter was never addressed. They were only a substitute for the real anecdote, if you will. The truth is, though, that even outside of the infomercial world we can find the same dynamic in most things. There will never be a sufficient substitute that will supersede or replace addressing and correcting the heart of any problem. No seminar, book, sermon, prescription, company, man, woman, or living location can ever provide the real sustenance. The source will always need to be greater than any of these. This was a critical lesson that Jesus could not implore enough to a pretty dense group of people.

Jesus spent a majority of His earthly ministry getting the Israelite people to understand that he was the True Source and Life-Giving Power. One such popular exchange occurs in John 4. Although as we read the entire text, we come to understand that these people who Jesus addresses had just been fed very well the day before so, naturally, they were looking for Him and that is why they followed Him over to Capernaum. We pick up where Jesus questions them because He already knows their motives for following Him. I'll take a second here to expound on that because it is critical to our very own walk with the Lord. What is the motivation behind our own following of Jesus? Would Jesus question us today the same if you and I were to meet Him? Would He be able to see in our hearts a sincere and honest love for Him and for God? Would our justifications for seeking Him be in question? What would He reveal to you and I about ourselves? I believe that through the inspired and chronicled events of the Bible, God allows us to inspect ourselves today so that we will be without excuse. Isn't that true? Yet, I digress.

In John 4 we examine that Jesus begins to point out to the Israelites that He was the true life source that they should be focusing on and not a physical piece of temporary sustenance. His exhortation to them was to drive the understanding that the food that they were asking Him for was not the food they should be seeking. He was willing to give them spiritual food that would lead to everlasting life. A much bigger deal! He offered a long lasting and eternally impacting solution, not a quick hunger fix meal which would only serve a need for a few hours. He was teaching them not to rely on short term solutions which are here today and gone tomorrow but to rely on a power that would be with them forever. I'm convinced the point He was making was that, *“Yes, you will have natural, physical needs that should be met and will be, but don't let that become your end all and be all because you will then miss the blessing that I have for you. I must be the one you channel your energy, focus, and devotion on because my life-giving fix is above all and everything”*. This is why He says with Him you can do everything and without Him you can do nothing.

The teaching that Jesus was patiently providing them is applicable to our lives today. As I write this I recall a recent conversation with a sister in Christ who gave me a testimony that confirmed to me that this was the article to write. Her testimony spoke of how she had shed an incredible amount of weight once she decided to give God her all. Her decision to make God her sustenance during this time proved once again that the true life-giving power of Jesus Christ is as powerful today as it was when he offered it to those early followers of His day. His declaration is timeless and not a quick fix and His offer still stands for you and I today. Will you accept Him as your one and only true source of life once and for all?

**By Jesus Maymí**

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