

Distractions

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a story involving Yogi Berra, the well-known catcher for the New York Yankees, and Henry Aaron, who, at the time, was the power hitter for the Milwaukee Braves. The teams were playing in the World Series. Yogi was keeping up his ceaseless chatter, partly to encourage his teammates and, partly, to distract the Milwaukee batters. As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi tried to distract him by saying, "Hank, you're hold the bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you read the trademark." Aaron didn't say anything, but, when the next pitch came, he hit it into the left field bleachers. After rounding the bases and tagging home plate, Aaron looked at Yogi Berra and said, "I didn't come up here to read."
2. Ours is a busy world of distractions and that's the way the devil wants it.

DISCUSSION: When the devil used the tool of distraction...

I. Nehemiah was challenged.

- A. Nehemiah knew, "they intended to do me harm" (6:2).
- B. Staying on focus, his response was "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down" (6:3).

II. A rich, young ruler was deterred from following Jesus.

- A. Matthew 19:16-22
- B. His wealth was his focus.

III. Peter began to sink.

- A. By the power of God he was able to walk on the waters of Galilee.
- B. When the wind got his attention, he took his eyes off of Jesus (Matt. 14:30).

IV. Martha complained.

- A. The word, "distracted," means, "over busy" (Luke 10:40).
- B. Serving is not the issue. It is focus or priorities.
- C. Martha was making plans for dinner while Mary was making plans for eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. There are lessons we may learn from examples of distraction.
2. Not only can individuals be distracted by the devil, but also congregations may (cf. Rev. 2:5).
3. "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it" (Heb. 2:1).