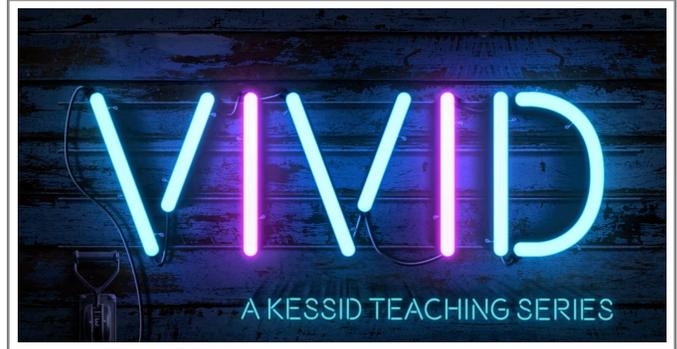


"SWORD BREAD"**Date:** May 16, 2021**Speaker:** Danny Clinton**'Vivid' Series Recap...**

- We are all "Misfits & Masterpieces."
- We are all in process.
- Everyone has both a "North & South Star."
- All of where we are matters.

With these realizations in tow, I'd like to speak with you about one of the most important tools you will take with you on this journey... "Scripture"

- Scripture is often described as a sort of spiritual life-giving Bread or Manna.

(Vs) Jeremiah 15:16 – "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts."

This is speaking to what Scripture does...

- It nourishes and brings life! – People love this!
- But that's not the only way Scripture describes itself...

(Vs) Hebrews 4:12 ESV – "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

So, it's also a Sword...

- This is also speaking to what Scripture does: it Defines and Divides!
- People don't love this as much!
- Basically, the Bible is "Sword Bread!" Ha!

Because of this truth, Scripture must be consumed with great intentionality and care – "Meditation"

(Vs) Psalm 1:1-2 – "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night."

- For most of us, meditation seems like a foreign idea...

- Allow me to 'Americanize' it a little bit...
- **Define:** "Mediate: To think deeply or focus one's mind for a period of time in silence."
- I'd like to propose that we are all quite good at Mediation... Just not meditating on Scripture.

Each of your phones has a section on it that tracks how much time you spend on your screens – It's aptly named "Screen Time."

Screen Time Facts:

- Most people check their phones 58 times a day.
- The average US adult spends 3 hours and 43 minutes using the internet on their mobile devices.
- That's roughly 50 days a year.
- **Question:** I wonder what might happen in your life if you spent even a fraction of that time mediating on the words of the One who made you?

One of the first things you'd notice is that the Bible isn't meant to be used unilaterally very often...

- **Define:** "Unilateral: Having only one side or surface; without a reverse side or inside."
- You can see this right on the surface...
- In that it was written as letters to be read holistically and not in Verse of the Day "Snap-Shots."
- The little numbers in the text are not scripture. They are just an organizational tool, unguided by the Holy Spirit.
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- **It's things like this that have caused me to say quite often around here – "What if you've been reading the Bible wrong?"**
- Instead... What if we refused to be locked down by verse numbers, or books we've read about the Bible, or even speakers presenting the Bible?
- **Then something very special can happen...** "God can meet and mingle within us individually."

Allow me to show you...Last weekend we had the privilege of having Jenn Adamson come and share with us during Mother's Day week...

- We often meet early in the week regarding messages...Jenn said in our meeting she wanted to talk about King David.
- And that she had some thoughts around David's Kingship Journey. I remember thinking, but it's Mother's Day...
- God Met and Mingled with Me. – I was Convicted!
- **Then on Thursday, Jenn presented her first message of the week.** As planned, she used the well-known story of David the Shepherd boy being anointed King, and then she made this statement...

"David is the South Star of Scripture and Jesus is the North."

- I'd never heard this before in my life!
- And so again, God Met and Mingled with Me. – I was Taught.

Now, as often as I can when we have guest speakers, I try and attend a service or two...

- In the case of Mother's Day week, I planned to attend them all with my family.
- Now remember, I've already sat in an hour prep earlier in the week around this message. I've also read her notes in detail. I had been to the 6:30pm service on Thursday and then the 9:00am service on Sunday, and was now sitting in the 11:00am service for the final presentation...

What else could I possibly learn or experience from this text? Then she read this passage...

- (Vs) 1st Samuel 17:38-39 – Power!
- (Vs) 1st Samuel 17:40 – 5 Stones!
- Why? Why the need for both? – Power & Preparation go hand in hand!

Once again, God Met and Mingled with Me... I was Loved!

- I share all these mechanics and nuances so that you may see how Scripture is constantly pushing and pulling you into relationship with Christ!

**“We come to Scripture not to learn a subject, but to steep ourselves in a person.”
– C.S. Lewis**

“The Bible isn't about you... It's about Jesus.”

- This is who Scripture says we are meeting and mingling with here.