

LESSONS FROM A LAWNMOWER

I. Tall grass is harder to cut.

- A. Cutting tall grass is extremely difficult because it clogs up the mower.
- B. When we lived in Bobbie's renter house, there was a part of the yard that you could only cut with half the mower or it would bog it down and kill the engine.
 - 1. J.D. told me that spot was where the garden used to be.
 - 2. That spot grows some thick grass and if you let it grow too long you could hardly cut it.
- C. The lesson we should learn from this is not to put off dealing with problems because that just makes it worse.
- D. We need to deal with problems with one another quickly.
 - 1. Matthew 5:23-25.
 - 2. Verse 25 says to deal with things quickly.
 - 3. Ephesians 4:26 - get things take care of quickly.
- E. David did not deal with Absalom after the death of Amnon and look what happened because of it.
- F. If there is a problem with sin, you need to take care of it soon.
 - 1. Sin tends to build upon itself and make things worse.
 - 2. Some have been lost because they waited so long that they felt overwhelmed and helpless.

II. Dull blades don't cut.

- A. When you cut with dull blades it just tends to break the grass and fold it over and it looks very messy.
- B. A dull mind is the same way spiritually.
 - 1. We are to diligently work to show ourselves approved unto God by proper handling of the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15).
 - 2. We can't handle the Bible properly without study.
 - 3. We tend to make a mess of things when we try to do something biblically without study.
- C. Paul told Timothy to give attendance to reading (1 Timothy 4:13).
 - 1. He was to be given to reading the word of God is the idea of the word attendance.
 - 2. He was to study the Bible to sharpen his mind spiritually.
- D. We won't be able to teach others about God's word if we don't know it and we won't be able to obey God's word if we don't know it.

III. A flooded engine won't start.

- A. This happens mostly with push mowers.
 - 1. I remember times when you would pull and pull that crank and it wouldn't do anything.
 - 2. You nearly pull your back out trying to crank it.
- B. Sometimes we let our lives get flooded with things that don't matter.
- C. Jesus said this happens in the hearts of some men (Luke 8:14).
 - 1. The cares of this world choke out God's word.
 - 2. We get so caught up in the mundane things of this life that we, at

times, tend to neglect our spiritual lives.

- D. We get so caught up making a living that we fail to make a life.
- E. We get so caught up with all the things in this life that we fail to pay attention to the most important life.

IV. A dead battery won't fire.

- A. Right now, my lawnmower is sitting in the front yard with a dead battery and won't do a thing but collect rain water.
- B. The battery won't fire so the rest of the mower is useless.
- C. Jesus understood the need for a break from the pressures of life.
 - 1. Mark 6:30-31.
 - 2. This was when the disciples returned from the limited commission.
 - 3. Jesus knew they needed a break because of the work they had been doing.
- D. Life will wear us down if we let it.
 - 1. Sometimes we need a break or we will break down.
 - 2. We need to take care of ourselves and get recharged.
- E. Several years ago I went to the Columbia Bible Institute that was headed by Tom Holland and William Woodson at the time.
 - 1. The first day there, br. Holland said he wanted this to be our Elim.
 - 2. Elim was one of the first places the Israelites came to after crossing the Jordan.
 - 3. Exodus 15:27 tells us it had twelve wells and 70 palm trees.
 - 4. Br. Holland's point was that he wanted that week to be a place of recharging and renewal.
 - 5. We need that in life at times.

V. Safety equipment should not be removed.

- A. There are things on the lawnmower that are there so people don't get hurt using them.
 - 1. One thing that quickly comes to mind is the flap over the blades where the grass shoots out.
 - 2. Some people take that off so the grass doesn't build up.
 - 3. However, that is there for protection to keep body parts out of the blades and rocks and things from flying when hit.
- B. God has put things in the His word for our protection because we need them.
- C. We think life would be easier if we could do certain things or not do other things.
 - 1. God has placed those things in His word for our benefit and our protection.
 - 2. God has our best interests in mind and many times we don't view it that way.
- D. Why does God call us to worship Him every first day of the week?
 - 1. We would like a break every now and then wouldn't we?
 - 2. God knows we need to come together to help us and aid us in our spiritual lives.
 - 3. We get built up by one another.

4. There are several passages in the New Testament that use the phrase "one another."
 5. Several of them tell us to do things to one another:
 - a. Love one another (Romans 13:8);
 - b. Prefer one another (Romans 12:10);
 - c. Admonish one another (Romans 15:14);
 - d. Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).
 6. All of these and the other "one another" passages are best done when we come together.
- E. God forbids drunkenness and fornication.
1. Why is this when the world enjoys these things so much?
 2. It is for our benefit.
 3. So many lives are ruined by both of these sins and that could be avoided if God's word would be heeded.
- F. All the restrictions God places upon His children are there for our benefit and will help us lead the abundant lives God wants us to lead (John 10:10).

From an outline by Wade Webster.