

## **“ROLLING STONES”**

**John 11:39**

In our text verse Jesus is about to do one of His most notable miracles. It is important to remember that Jesus or His Apostles never did a miracle that did not have one or more spiritual applications for people to learn and this miracle was no different. God will do everything for man that needs to be done but man must do his part (rolling stones away) to meet God's demands regarding every promise.

### **Christian Growth**

**I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18** Peter admonishes the new believer to begin to grow by feasting on God's word. He ends his writings just before he dies with the same admonition to continue to grow in Christ. The word in the text “grow” is a present tense that means to “grow continually.” Why don't we grow?

### **Worldliness**

**Hebrews 12:1** The Christian life is pictured as a race. Satan will put whatever obstacles, hindrances, and barriers in our way to prohibit us from being faithful in our race to the finish line.

**Matthew 13:22** Jesus warned us about the snares of the world when He spoke of the parable of the sower. Too many believers fail to grow in Christ because of the “rolling stone” of worldly influence.

**Matthew 6:24-25, 33** If we are not willing to give up the quest to get everything we can get out of this world we will never grow into maturity as a Christian. God must be our number one priority.

### **Distractions**

**Luke 9:57-62** Here we see that Jesus is teaching a great spiritual lesson about serving Him. We have such busy schedules that we think the things we must do cannot wait. God expects first place every day.

**Luke 10:38-42** Here we see two of Jesus best friends but Martha was dealing with the “rolling stone” of distraction while her sister was dealing with spiritual growth in Christ.

### **Indifference & Ignorance**

**Matthew 15:8-9** Indifference is a matter of an impure heart. Indifference means serving God with divided loyalties. We might know some truth but if it interferes with our priorities we ignore the truth.

**Matthew 25:1-12** Indifference caused five virgins in this parable to be left out of the marriage. The “rolling stone” of indifference shows in unfinished projects, slow learning, and unpreparedness.

**Revelation 3:15-16** It was indifference that made Laodicea such a distasteful church to Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 7:21** Satan loves those who do not follow-up and investigate truth from error.

**Proverbs 4:7; II Timothy 2:15** Both Solomon and Paul admonished us by the Holy Spirit to search out the truth of God so that we would not be spiritually stunted by the “rolling stone” of ignorance.

### **Discouragement**

**Matthew 13:20-21** Often times when we fail at growing or grasping something, we get discouraged. Discouragement comes to everyone at times but we ought not to let this “rolling stone” beat us down.

**Galatians 6:9** The very fact that the bible teaches different stages of a believers growth is testament to the fact that growing takes time. As long as we are heading in the right direction let's not get discouraged.