

Renewing Our Mind - Part 1

A GODLY MINDSET Matthew 16:21-28

STIMULATE

** Last time, we concluded our series entitled "**MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED**" with the understanding we needed to not be conformed to this world, but rather be transformed by the renewing of our mind. What is the one resource that we have at our disposal, that we can trust to do that job in such a way that our minds will become tools for the glory of God?

The perfect, inerrant Word of God

** If we will submit ourselves to the authority of Scripture, who is it that will be teaching us how to renew our minds?

Psalms 119:97-104 - God Himself! (V. 102)

Before we get into our study for today, I would like you to see that psalm.

** In the first six verses of this section of the psalm, the psalmist (possibly David) uses six different terms for the "Word of God", what are they?

V.97 - **law**, V.98 - **commandments**, V.99 - **testimonies**,
V.100 - **precepts**, V.101 - **word**, V.102 - **ordinances**.

** How does understanding that God, Himself, teaches us to know and obey His Word encourage us to renew our mind with the Word of God?

It is because of our personal relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, that we have the desire to be renewed in the first place! That relationship becomes the driving force behind our growth or "renewal".

MOTIVATE

** Over the next month, we are going to learn how a Christian is to grow in spiritual maturity throughout the entire course of their Christian lives. How does "**Renewing Our Mind**" facilitate the growth to which Scripture calls each child of God? (cf. 1Peter 2:2)

It is in the disposing of our pre-salvation, fleshly thinking and the input of God's expressed will and Word, that we take on the mature spiritual posture or "thinking process" that honors our Lord and Savior. (cf. 2Peter 3:18)

** Why do our minds need to be "Renewed"? How urgent is the need? How does a renewed mind treat others? What is the main characteristic of a renewed mind?

These four questions, and many others will be answered in our four part series that we have called "**Renewing Our Mind**".

The four parts are:

A GODLY MINDSET - Matthew 16:21-28

A PREPARED MINDSET - 1Peter 1:13-25

A LOVING MINDSET - Luke 10:25-37

A PEACEFUL MINDSET - Philippians 4:4-9

Please open your Bibles to Matthew's gospel, chapter 16, verses 21-28 and let's learn from our Lord, Himself, what it means to have "A Godly Mindset".

Read Passage (V.21-23) (V.24-26) (V.27-28)

Opening Prayer

A Godly Mindset

INVESTIGATE

V.21 ** Even before we dive into today's text, can anyone answer the question, "Why do our minds need to be renewed"?

As fallen man, even when we are born-again, our thinking process is often short-sighted and usually self-serving. We need a renewed mind so that we can walk in step with the thoughts of God. cf. Isaiah 55:8-9, Proverbs 14:12

** What is it about Matthew's narrative that indicates a change in the focus of our Lord's earthly ministry?

Matthew says, "From that time..." cf. Matthew 4:17

He used the same term earlier to mark the beginning of the Lord's public ministry to Israel, which included some occasional private instruction to the Twelve. Here he uses it to mark the beginning of His private ministry to the Twelve, with some occasional public instruction.

** What four things did Jesus want His disciples to know about this change in His earthly ministry?

- 1) He must go to Jerusalem
- 2) He must suffer
- 3) He must be killed
- 4) He must be raised on the third day

** How certain was the fulfillment of these four events in the heart of Jesus?

Jesus knew "...that He must go..." This is more than mere determination on the part of Jesus. There are four reasons that all four of these events had to take place. Let's see them together...

- 1) Human sinfulness - Matthew 20:28
- 2) Divine Requirement - Hebrews 9:22
- 3) Divine Decree - Acts 2:22-24
- 4) Prophetic Promise - Psalm 22:11-18, Psalm 16:8-11

This plan was the essential, unalterable plan of God, set in motion before the world was made. God's plan is not subject to change. It can only be believed or rejected, but never altered!

** As Jesus shared this prophetic truth with His disciples, what part do you think they did not hear, or at least, did not understand?

"...and be raised on the third day" cf. John 20:9

If they had understood the victory over death and sin that Jesus was about to accomplish, they would have been more likely to support God's will.

V.22 ** Peter, still needing to have his mind renewed, had a rather fleshy response to the news. What did he do?

He "...took Him aside and began to rebuke Him..."

Matthew uses the word "epitimaō" which means to invoke an authoritative judgement. cf. V.20

** Why would Peter react that way, upon hearing the future of Jesus?

He had put all his stock in Jesus, and did not want any part of the idea that Jesus was going to die! All see - John 6:66-69, Mark 10:23-30 (V.28)

** Back in Matthew 16:22, what does Peter say to Jesus?

"God forbid it, Lord" This statement was taken from a Hebrew colloquialism meaning, "May God in His mercy spare you this". Because of Peter's "rebuke" posture, the phrase is translated in its most negative connotation, "God forbid it".

** Do you think that Peter was at all open to this plan of God?

Absolutely not! He adds, "This shall never happen to you!"

** How does Peter's command to Jesus show the hollowness of the title by which he had referred to Him?

If Jesus was "Lord", Peter should have subjected himself to the will of God instead of selfishly looking out for his own interests and opposing God's sovereign will.

** Do we ever react that way when the Lord sovereignly brings earth shaking events into the daily course of our life ?

Of course! It sounds like this..."Why me, Lord?"

When joy comes to us, it seems only proper for the children of God, but when sorrow comes our way we doubt our heavenly Father's wisdom and love.

V.23 ** How does Jesus respond to this spiritual insurrection?

He blasts Peter, who He had just blessed (V.17), and equates him to Satan! cf. Matthew 4:1-11

** What was Peter's self-centered or fleshy mindset putting in the way of Jesus?

A stumbling block! Peter was actually trying to stop God's eternal will for the redemption of man!

** What was at the core of the problem? How do we know that Peter did not have "A Godly Mindset"?

"...for you are not setting your mind on God's interest, but man's." All see - Romans 8:5-8

** Back in Matthew 16:23, what general principle can we derive from our Lord's statement that will help us to develop "A Godly Mindset"?

Principle: "Don't set your mind on man's interest, but on God's."

V.24 ** What a great principle to live by, but how is it done? How can we accomplish so lofty a goal? Jesus gives His disciples and us a three step plan to do just that. What is it?

- 1) Deny yourself - Do not look out for your own interest!
- 2) Take up your cross - Be willing to suffer or die if necessary, for Christ's sake!
- 3) Follow Jesus as Lord - Be obedient to His Word!

** By the way, what is a synonym for "wishes to come after Me"?

Becoming a Christian. cf. Acts 11:25-26 (Barnabas)

V.25 ** In these next three verses, Christ expands on all three steps of how we can renew our minds and develop "A Godly Mindset". First, if I am to be able to deny myself, what must I be willing to do?

Lose myself in my desire to live for Jesus. cf. Galatians 2:20

** Just a note: What becomes of the unregenerate person that is preoccupied in saving his own life?

He "...shall lose it..."

V.26 ** Secondly, how must my value system change, so that I will be willing to "take up my cross" **daily**? (Luke 9:23)

We must realize that "the whole world" does not offer enough "profit" for us to exchange for the privilege of enduring suffering for Christ's sake with "A Godly Mindset". cf. Philippians 3:8

V.27 ** Thirdly, what incentive does Jesus give us to follow Him in obedience to His Word, with a renewed mind?

He "...will recompense every man according to his deeds."

** Is that good news for everyone?

No! cf. John 5:24-29

Saved receive rewards - 2Corinthians 5:9-10

Lost receive judgement - Revelation 20:11-15

V.28 ** How do you suppose the disciples were feeling, having just heard this incredible news of Christ's impending death and the overwhelming call to have "A Godly Mindset"?

They had to be shaken at the prospective loss of Jesus and the challenge of accepting God's will.

** What does Jesus tell them to strengthen their resolve to obey?

"...some..." of you are going to see Me in my Glory before you die. Jesus uses the word "basileia", translated here "kingdom", which literally means: royal majesty or regal splendor.

** Why does Jesus refer to Himself as the "Son of Man"?

It was the title of His humanness, prophetically given to the Messiah in Daniel 7:13.

** How long did they have to wait?

Six days - Read Matthew 17:1-8

That event was designed to give them and us the courage to accept what was to come! When you are challenged by life's events, remember the Glory of the One in whom you have come to believe. cf. 2Timothy 1:12

EXTRICATE

** Why do our minds need to be renewed?

Because we set our minds on the interest of man, rather than on God's interest.

DELINEATE

** What were the three steps to producing "A Godly Mindset"?

- 1) Deny yourself - Do not look out for your own interest!
- 2) Take up your cross - Be willing to suffer or die if necessary, for Christ's sake!
- 3) Follow Jesus as Lord - Be obedient to His Word!

EVALUATE

** Peter's problem developed when he set his mind on his own interest, not God's. How often do we do the same?

When God's Word specifically instructs us on how to be a godly wife, husband, child, parent, employee, supervisor, neighbor or friend, do we accept God's will for our life or do we make up a long list of excuses why we won't obey?

ACTIVATE

** This next week, I would like to challenge you to develop "A Godly Mindset", one that accepts God's expressed will and Word. Will you commit yourself to following the three steps that our Lord has taught us today and apply God's Word to every situation?

Let's take a moment now to go before the Lord and ask Him to equip us all with "A Godly Mindset".

Closing Prayer