

Renewing Our Mind - Part 3

A LOVING MINDSET Luke 10:25-37

STIMULATE

** So far in our series called "**Renewing Our Mind**", we have learned the importance of having "A Godly Mindset" and of developing "A Prepared Mindset". Hopefully you were able to spend time this past week reviewing the seven elements of a prepared mind.

It was very encouraging for my own heart to review those things we had learned together.

** Let me remind you of the seven elements of preparing our minds for action and the two which were special to me.

- 1) **A spiritually disciplined thought life**
- 2) Fixing our hope on eternity in Christ
- 3) **Avoiding conforming to our old lifestyle**
- 4) Be holy, for our God is holy
- 5) Develop a reverence for God
- 6) Living in "obedience to the Truth"
- 7) Life based upon the foundation of God's Word

MOTIVATE

** As we move on into part three of our series, we are beginning to see how these studies build upon one another. "A Godly Mindset" or one that agrees with God, becomes most effective when it is also "A Prepared Mindset". The question becomes, "How does a 'Renewed' mind treat others?" Today's study will show us that the Christian mind, prepared by all seven elements that we learned last week, will indeed evolve into "**A Loving Mindset**". Please open your Bibles to Luke's gospel, chapter 10, verses 25-37 as we learn the three components of "**A Loving Mindset**."

Read Passage (V. 25-29) (V. 30-37)

Opening Prayer

A Loving Mindset

INVESTIGATE

V.25 ** As we move into the next scene portrayed in Luke's gospel, who does Jesus encounter?

"...a certain lawyer..." or expert in the Law of Moses. Luke adds "behold", because this was no small event in the life of those who heard it!

** What do we know about the man's motives from this passage?

He "stood up and put Him to the test..." (V.25)

"But wishing to justify himself..." (V.29)

This man belonged to the group of Pharisees, who were always trying to find ways to discredit Jesus in a public forum. All see - Matthew 22:15-22

**** Knowing his false motives, what is wrong with the question that this man asks of Jesus?**

The address...he calls Him "Teacher" [didaskalos], meaning "an instructor". This guy feigns respect, while all the time is trying to find the flaw.

He did not want to know how to inherit eternal life, but was trying to catch Jesus in an error as He answered the question.

V.26 ** How does Jesus handle this attempt at entrapment?

By reversing the process, He asks the "lawyer" what is written in the Law, "How does it read to you?"

V.27 ** Does the lawyer give his opinion in the answer?

No. He merely gives a direct quote from the Pentateuch, not wanting to expose his selfish sin.

V.28 ** At this point we must realize that the lawyer is in way over his head by trying to out smart the Lord. Did Jesus know what this man was thinking?

Absolutely, He always did! cf. Matthew 9:4, 12:25, Luke 6:8 and 9:47 (the disciples).

**** So how does He set him up for the kill?**

By telling him that he was right!

**** So what was the problem, was this guy going to inherit eternal life just for knowing the scripture?**

No! He had to do all of it! cf. Galatians 3:10

V.29 ** As he senses eminent failure, how does the lawyer try to squirm out of the tight spot that his legalism has gotten him into?

He tries to qualify, "...who is my neighbor?"

**** Do you remember the Pharisee's teaching on the amount of love that we are to offer others?**

Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, [by the Pharisees] 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you..."

John 7:45-49 Read passage..."But this multitude which does not know the Law is accursed."

The teaching of the Pharisees was that you shall "love your neighbor, the Israelite". But they even narrowed that down to those that agreed with their self-serving interpretation of the Law.

V.30 ** As our Lord answers the question, "...who is my neighbor?", we will learn the three components of "A Loving Mindset". Before that happens, what is the setting of Jesus' parable?

A man (most likely a Jew) is traveling from:

Jerusalem (3000' above sea level), down to Jericho (1000' below sea level), a distance of 17 miles over a very steep and dangerous terrain.

He fell among robbers (lit. the robbers surrounded him), they stripped him, beat him and left him for dead. This hypothetical scenario is ripe for someone with "A Loving Mindset" to enter.

V.31 ** Who is the first one to happen by this poor victim?

A priest! Who knew the Law. cf. Leviticus 19:34

** What did he do when he saw the helpless man?

Incredibly "he passed by on the other side"!

All see - Matthew 23:1-7 Totally self-consumed!

V.32 ** Who comes by next?

A Levite! An assistant to the priest! Like the one who went before him, he had learned the practice of remembering the Law while forgetting the love of God towards all men.
cf. Hosea 4:6-10

** So what did he do when he saw the man?

The same thing, he "passed by on the other side"!

V.33 ** Finally our hero of the story enters, who is it?

A Samaritan!

** Who were the Samaritans and how did they get along with the Jewish people?

They were a mixed breed of Jew and Gentile, that for centuries had been hostile toward Israelites. cf. John 8:48 (Jews) and Luke 9:51-53 (Samaritans)

** What did the Samaritan do that was exactly the same as the priest and Levite?

"...he saw him..."

** What happens next in the story is the first component of "A Loving Mindset". What did the Samaritan do?

"**...he felt compassion...**" [splachnizomai] lit. "to be moved in the inward parts". Unlike the cold, stoic, religious leaders, the Samaritan had a response which reflected God's heart of compassion. cf. Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34, Mark. 1:41, 6:34

V.34 ** That immediately puts into motion the second component of "A Loving Mindset", do you see it at the end of the verse?

The Samaritan "**took care of him**". He bandaged his wounds, poured oil and wine on them, placed him on his animal (choosing to walk himself) and brought him to an inn.

V.35 ** If feeling compassion and exercising care for another are two components of "A Loving Mindset", what do you suppose the third component is?

Covering the Cost! This Samaritan paid two days wages for the care of a complete stranger. Not only a stranger, but very most likely an enemy, in that he was an Israelite.

** How did the Samaritan go the extra mile in Covering the Cost?

He instructed the inn-keeper to "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you." This is not saying, "Sorry, but I gave at the office." This is a commitment to cover the cost of someone else in need and reflects "A Loving Mindset".

V.36 ** Remember, this entire story is a parable designed to show the lawyer how far he has missed the commandment of God to "love your neighbor". What does Jesus ask the lawyer to do?

Make a judgment, or give his opinion, based upon the facts given. He had to commit himself.

** Before we see his answer, based upon the question of Jesus to the lawyer, how broad is the application of the word "neighbor" in the life of the child of God?

Our "neighbors" are anyone and everyone that the Lord brings across our path. Even the stranger that has a need that we can meet, qualifies as our neighbor.

** Does that mean that we spend our whole paycheck for all of the homeless that end up in our town?

No, there is a balance that God calls for:

1 Timothy 5:8 - provide for your own household

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 - no work, no food

But our hearts should always reflect all three components of "A Loving Mindset"...

1) Compassion - "to be moved in the inward parts"

2) Caring - Don't stop at the emotional level but respond with action to meet the pressing need.

3) Covering the Cost - As the Lord provides for you, be willing to share for the provision of others that He leads your way.

V.37 ** Let's get back to the lawyer, what was his answer?

He knew that the one who showed mercy (notice that he could not refer to him as a Samaritan) was the one who had proven himself to be a neighbor.

** What solid advice does Jesus give this man?

"Go and do the same" or stop resting on your legal understanding of God's law and start living the heart of love that Jesus had been portraying before them all.

EXTRICATE

** What was wrong with the lawyer's approach to Jesus?

He wanted to put Jesus to the test and was only looking to justify his own short-sighted, self-serving flesh.

** How should we view others who cross our path, even if they are different from us in culture, creed or race?

As our neighbors! We should pursue the opportunity to share "A Loving Mindset" with all that Jesus brings our way.

DELINEATE

** What are the three components of "A Loving Mindset"?

1) Compassion - "to be moved in the inward parts"

2) Caring - Don't stop at the emotional level but respond with action to meet the pressing need.

3) Covering the Cost - As the Lord provides for you, be willing to share for the provision of others that He leads your way.

EVALUATE

** In the process of "Renewing Our Mind", am I willing to hold lightly to earthly treasures so that I might meet the needs of others and glorify my Father which is in heaven?

ACTIVATE

** When we began this series, we discovered that we needed to renew our minds because while acting in our flesh we are short-sighted and self-serving in our thinking. We then learned that the need for renewal was immediate and called for a commitment to being prepared. Today we have seen that a renewed mind treats others as neighbors, as it develops "**A Loving Mindset**". Will you spend time this week living all three lessons, as we work our way toward "**A Peaceful Mindset**" next week?

Closing Prayer