

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

III. PRINCIPLES

The God of All Comfort speaks words of hope to those who have experienced or are anticipating loss. Meditate on these truths to ready yourself to receive God's comfort:

A. Promises

- Jn 14:1-18 TV-- Don't get lost in despair; believe in God, and keep on believing in Me. 2 My Father's home is designed to accommodate all of you. If there were not room for everyone, I would have told you that. I am going to make arrangements for your arrival. 3 I will be there to greet you personally and welcome you home, where we will be together. 4 You know where I am going and how to get there.
Thomas: 5 Lord, we don't know where You are going, so how can we know the path? Jesus: 6 I am the path, the truth, and the *energy of life*. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 If you know Me, you know the Father. Rest assured now; you know Him and have seen Him.
Philip: 8 Lord, all I am asking is that You show us the Father.
Jesus (*to Philip*): 9 I have lived with you all this time, and you still don't know who I am? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. How can you keep asking to see the Father? 10 Don't you believe Me when I say I abide in the Father and the Father dwells in Me? I'm not making this up as I go along. The Father has given Me these truths that I have been speaking to you, and He empowers all My actions. 11 Accept these truths: I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me. If you have trouble believing based on My words, believe because of the things I have done. 12 I tell you the truth: whoever believes in Me will be able to do what I have done, but they will do even greater things, because I will return to be with the Father. 13 Whatever you ask for in My name, I will do it so that the Father will get glory from the Son. 14 *Let Me say it again*: if you ask for anything in My name, I will do it. 15 If you love Me, obey the commandments I have given you. 16 I will ask the Father to send you another Helper, *the Spirit of truth*, who will remain constantly with you. 17 The world does not recognize the Spirit of truth, because it does not know the Spirit and is unable to receive Him. But you do know the Spirit because He lives with you, and He will dwell in you. 18 I will never abandon you like orphans; I will return to be with you.
- Jesus promises: Jn 14:18 KJV-- I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
- We can find comfort when our eyes are fixed on the God of All Comfort and His promises. It is impossible for Him to lie:
 - Num 23:19 NLT-- God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
 - Heb 6:18 NLT-- So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.
- In our places of loss we are never alone. God has given us the Comforter, the Holy Spirit: Jn 14:16 AMP-- And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever.
- God has promised supernatural peace in our empty, barren places: Jn 14:27 NIV-- Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
- Biblical Example: Naomi
 - Naomi had lost so much! She had suffered the loss of her homeland, the death of her husband and both sons.
 - But God did not leave her alone. She had Ruth and a mustard seed of faith.
 - She turned her focus on the Word of God and heeded it. She returned to her homeland and to the people of God. She stood on God's promise of redemption.

- She was transformed from a woman who called herself “Bitter” to a woman with a testimony. Though she had lost so very much, Naomi’s life brought glory to God: Ruth 4:14-- Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative
- God not only manifested Himself as the God of All Comfort, He also proved Himself to be the God of What’s Left.
- The Lord fulfilled His great purposes through a tiny family of two widows and their faith. They received comfort from the family of God and a new baby that would be in the line of Jesus!
- The God of What’s Left will multiply what is left after our losses. He will not allow anything to be lost that’s necessary for fulfilling His purpose for our lives.

Insights:

B. Provision

- God has provided comfort for us, but it must be received. We must decide to let it in!
- It’s often a struggle to receive comfort due to the pain of recent or impending loss. Jesus offered the disciples strong comfort: Jn 14:27b AMP--Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]
- If we focus on our troubles and losses, then sorrow will fill our hearts: Jn 16:6 AMP-- But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts [taken complete possession of them].
- “Correction” is one of the synonyms for comfort! Jesus comforts us by correcting our focus, placing it on the provision of the Holy Spirit: Jn 16:7 AMP-- However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].
- Comfort comes when we stop focusing on loss and focus on His provision instead.
- Receive Jesus’ words of comfort instead of messages of fear, loss, and pain:
 - You’ll do greater works than I’ve done. (Jn 14:12)
 - Ask anything in My name and I will do it! (Jn 14:13-14, Jn 15:7)
 - I have loved you even as the Father loves Me. (Jn 15:8)
 - You can have My joy overflowing in your life! (Jn 15:11)
 - I chose you and appointed you to produce lasting fruit. (Jn 15:16)
 - This is good for you. You’ll see it’s even better this way. (Jn 16:7)
 - I’m going away but I’m coming back. (Jn 16:16)
- Biblical Example: Joseph
 - Joseph lost everything but his life, his faith, and his God-given gifts. Yet Joseph was faithful to God’s call by bearing fruit in slavery and in prison. (Genesis 37.39, 40)
 - He focused on the promises and provision of God in his hardship. He put his energies toward the long-term rewards of walking by faith. God honored that.
 - Joseph was favored, promoted and eventually used by God to redeem His people. He was able to make this powerful statement: Gen 41:52-- God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Insights:

C. Patient Endurance

- Endurance is necessary when God’s on His way and we’re left waiting in the middle:

- Lk 21:19 NIV-- Stand firm, and you will win life.
- Lk 21:19 NAS-- By your endurance you will gain your lives.
- In Luke 21 Jesus promises to come back. He warns that it may get worse before it gets better. There'll be persecution, wars, natural disasters, & betrayal—much loss!
- Find comfort by focusing on the promises and provisions that precede Luke 21:19:
 - These trials and losses will result in you being His witnesses (Lk 21:13)
 - Jesus will give you words and the wisdom that no one can resist or contradict (Lk 21:15)
 - He will protect you. “When you come to balance profit and loss, you will find that nothing has perished, but, on the contrary, that you have great gain.” (M. Henry on Lk 21:18)
- Endurance, defined—the trait of a person who’s not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith by even the greatest trials and suffering (Strong’s)
- Rom 15:4 NIV—For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

ENDURANCE	+	COMFORT	=	HOPE
Not Swerved from Faith & Purpose		Encouragement, Guidance, & Correction		Joyful & Confident Expectation of Good!

- Biblical Example of Anna
 - Luke 2:36-38 NLT--Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was...from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.
 - Anna’s focus was not on what she had lost but on the Lord. She spent her energies in her Heavenly Husband’s house, using her gifts, praise, & prayer.
 - She must’ve found comfort in the promised blessings for her tribe in Scripture: Deut 33:24 MSG—Asher, best blessed of the sons! May he be the favorite of his brothers, his feet massaged in oil. Safe behind iron-clad doors and gates, your strength like iron as long as you live.”
- Lk 21:19 MSG-- Every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that’s what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry.

Insights:

IV. PERSONALIZATION

- A. Cultivate intimacy with God by connecting with Him daily:
 - Find a quiet spot
 - Fix your eyes of Jesus
 - Find the flow of God’s voice (sounds like spontaneous, biblical thoughts)
 - Facilitate communication by journaling
- B. Spend time in God’s presence through prayer and song using the names of God.
- C. Get to know God better by meditating on His names using the Nuggets” booklet.
 - Ask the Lord “Who do You want to be for me?” in my day, issue, or season.
- D. Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you’ve experienced.