

- 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.

1. 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).
2. 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 that truth become your experience.

III. PRINCIPLES

Use the principles found in these Scriptures to help you understand and cultivate a new way of thinking. This process will transform you to become more and more like Christ:

A. Mind of Christ = Thinking Like Jesus

- 1 Cor 2:16--We have the mind of Christ.
- Mt 7:24-27 NIV--Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

B. Cultivating the Mind of Christ

- Mt 13:1-15 MSG—(Jesus) addressed his congregation, telling stories. "What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn't put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?" The disciples came up and asked, "Why do you tell stories?" 11-15 He replied, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. In their present state they can stare till doomsday and not see it, listen till they're blue in the face and not get it. I don't want Isaiah's forecast repeated all over again: Your ears are open but you don't hear a thing. Your eyes are awake but you don't see a thing.
- Examine the different ways people receive God's Word:
 1. Skimming the Surface
 - Mt 13:19 NLT--The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.
 - This type of receiving is shallow. We "know" it but not so much that it deeply impacts us.
 - There are 2 types of knowing: 1) dead, religious, knowing "about God" vs. 2) intimate, personal knowing (Gnosgo in Greek = intimate knowledge as in marriage bed)
 - Paul describes true Biblical knowledge: Phil 3:10 NLT-- I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.
 - God gives us meditation as the path to true Biblical knowledge: Josh 1:8-- This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
 - The Hebrew word for meditate is also translated in these 5 ways:
 - a. Chew: Jer 15:16 NAS-- Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart
 - b. Speak: 2 Cor 4:13 NIV-- It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak
 - c. Sing: Ps 35:28 NIV-- My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.

d. Moan/Mourn/Roar

- Is 59:11-12 NLT-- We moan like mournful doves...for our sins are piled up before God and testify against us. Yes, we know what sinners we are.
- Ps 126:5 NLT-- Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy.

e. Imagine

- How David "imagined" God: Ps 18:8-10 NLT-- Smoke poured from his nostrils; fierce flames leaped from his mouth. Glowing coals blazed forth from him. He opened the heavens and came down; dark storm clouds were beneath his feet. Mounted on a mighty angelic being, he flew, soaring on the wings of the wind.
- How Peter pictured the devil: 1 Pt 5:8-- Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- How Jesus described the Holy Spirit: Jn 7:38-39-- He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

o Examine your life:

- How deeply do I "know" the foundational truths of the Bible (ex: God loves me. I am forgiven.)
- How intimately do I know God Himself?
- Will I take advantage of His promise? Jm 4:8—Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

o Insights:

2. Shallow Commitments

- o Mt 13:20-21 NLT--The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.
- o This type of hearing bears no fruit because it has no root. This can be the result of either no commitment or being overly committed to other things.
- o We must take into account that we are human beings bound by time. We have limits. That means we have to set priorities and make hard choices.
- o Mt 16:24 NLT-- Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.
- o When we make the pursuit of knowing Jesus a priority, it will bear fruit in our lives.
- o Gal 6:7 MSG-- Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God! — harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

- Ask yourself: Do I have commitments that either a) I can't keep with excellence or b) are keeping me from building my house upon the solid rock of God's Word?
 - Insights:
3. Suffocated and Unsettled:
- Mt 13:22 NLT--The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.
 - Jesus names 2 things that are responsible for choking out the Word:
 1. Worry/Anxiety
 - Brain function research discovered that we best retain what we are learning when it is received in a restful state.
 - Deep breathing slows the parasympathetic nervous system, calming us down.
 - God's Word confirms these scientific facts: Ps 46:10 TPT—Surrender your anxiety! Be silent and stop your striving and you will see that I am God.
 - Worry, striving, busyness, noise and distraction hinder deeply knowing God.
 - We can trust Him to reveal to us what we need to know when we need to know it.
 2. Illusions/Misinformation
 - The Greek word in Mt 13:22 is "apate." It is defined as "that which gives a false impression, whether by appearance, statement or influence." (Vines)
 - The enemy of our souls attempts to deceive us about God, life, and ourselves. He uses our design and our desires against us.
 - Wrong thinking is toxic and unsettling. With it, we build our houses upon sand.
 - As we learn to think like Jesus, we will gain freedom and become more fruitful: John 8:31-32-- "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
Mt 13:23 MSG--The people who hear the word and receive it and grow in it— those are like the seeds sown on good soil. They produce a bumper crop, 30 or 60 or 100 times what was sown.
 - Prayerfully consider areas of your life where there's no bumper crop. Is anxiety keeping you from really hearing God's Word & putting it into practice? Record your thoughts here:
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- Invite God to reveal misinformation, lies, or deceit that has been sown in your life. In this season of Thinking Again, trust that He will reveal His truth that will bring new freedom!
 - Insights:

Keep a written record of how God ministers to you this week. Come back ready to share what you've experienced.