

- 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

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. CHILD OF GOD

- Being God's child is the 1st level of intimacy with the Lord: Rom 8:15-17--You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ
- A child develops healthily when its needs for belonging, security and love are consistently met. That's true for our basic human development and for our spiritual growth as well.
- "Since we are created in His likeness, relationship is our most fundamental need, the very foundation of who we are. Without relationship, without attachment to God and others, we can't be our true selves. We can't be truly human." (Henry Cloud, *Changes that Heal*, p. 49)
- We all have areas in our hearts and minds that have yet to be renewed by the light and love of God: 1 Cor 13:11 NIV-- When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.
- Jesus knows what it's like to depend on God and man to help Him grow up into the Mind of Christ and the purposes of God: Luke 2:52 Phillips-- Jesus continued to grow in body and mind, he grew also in the love of God and of those who knew him.
- In our weakest, most vulnerable areas, we must come to Him in childlike faith: Mt 18:3 MSG-- Unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom
- God sees you as His child and it is His intention to relate to you in fatherly love: 2 Cor 6:18 NLT-- I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty
- Even though God's larger purpose for our lives is to grow into the full stature of Christ, there will always remain the need to look to God as Father: Jn 16:12 MSG-- I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is.
- One of the reasons God gives us friends is to help us in our growing process: Col 2:19 NOG-- Christ makes the whole body grow as God wants it to, through support and unity given by the joints and ligaments.

Insights:

B. FRIEND OF GOD

- God desires a deep friendship with His children who are growing into true intimacy (bringing time, vulnerability, and submission to the relationship): Pr 3:32 AMP-- But His private counsel is with the upright [those with spiritual integrity and moral courage].
- Biblical Examples:
 - Abraham in Jm 2:23 MSG-- It's that mesh of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend."

- Friend = He who associates familiarly with one; to wish him well; loyal to his interests; companion (Strong's)
- Jesus in Pr 18:24b-- There is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.
- The Hebrew word for "friend" used here = to have affection for, to like! (Strong's)
- Take some time this week to meditate on the truth that Jesus wants to be your companion. He loves and even likes you. This will help you gain the MOC about being a Friend of God.
- There is more required of a true friend than just proximity:
 - Pr 18:24a-- A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly
 - Pr 17:17 TV-- A *true* friend loves regardless of the situation, and a *real* brother exists to share the tough times.
- Both intimacy and commitment are necessary for true friendship. Judas is an example of intimacy without commitment: Lk 22:48 NLT-- Jesus said, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"
- Spend some time this week in self examination:
 - With whom do you enjoy true intimacy? Make a list in your spiritual journal.
 - Where does the Lord land on your list of intimate friends?
 - What is your current level of commitment to your relationship with Jesus?
 - How does your intention toward God match His desire to be your intimate friend?

Insights:

C. BRIDE OF CHRIST

- The Mind of Christ is set upon the prize for which He died--having us as His bride: Eph 5:27 TV-- *He has given Himself* so that He can present the church as His radiant bride, unstained, unwrinkled, and unblemished—*completely free from all impurity*—holy and innocent before Him.
- We must renew our minds so that we begin to see ourselves as Jesus' beloved, as ultimately belonging to Him alone: Song 4:12 TV--You are a locked garden, my sister, my bride, *open only to me*; a spring closed up tight, a sealed fountain.
- Jesus' intent for is to have nothing and no one competing for your heart.
- Our time on earth is like an engagement period. We ready ourselves by cultivating intimate connection with Him ahead of lesser or unholy loyalties: Hosea 2:16-17, 19-20 NLT—You will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.' O Israel, I will wipe the many names of Baal from your lips, and you will never mention them again...I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as the Lord.

- Biblical Example of the Ten Virgins: Mt 25:1-10 AMP-- The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. 5 Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet *him*.' 7 Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. 8 But the foolish *virgins* said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *oil* for yourselves.' 10 But while they were going away to buy *oil*, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast
- Jesus teaches us how to align with our identity as brides and to grow in intimacy:
 - The heart is the wick. The oil represents the Holy Spirit (Zech 4). The oil of the Spirit fills our lamps and soaks our wicks. Fire and light are symbols of God's presence.
 - Even though they drifted off and did not stay mindful of the groom, the wise virgins were ready were ready for more of Jesus because they had their oil.
 - Trimmed wicks produce a pure flame, whereas untrimmed ones give off toxic smoke.
 - Trimming is needed so that our hearts can burn with greater passion and power.
 - It is not wise to give away the experience of His presence even though it may appear to be "a good thing" at first glance. The bride's first loyalty is to the Bridegroom.
- Song 8:6-8 TPT—Fasten me upon your heart as a seal of fire forevermore. This living, consuming flame will seal you as my prisoner of love. My passion is stronger than the chains of death and the grave, all consuming as the very flashes of fire from the burning heart of God. Rivers of pain and persecution will never extinguish this flame. Endless floods will be unable to quench this raging fire that burns within you. Everything will be consumed. It will stop at nothing as you yield everything to this furious fire until it won't even seem to you like a sacrifice anymore.

Insights:

Continue to apply the principles from our previous teaching on the Mind of Christ:

- Set your intentions daily: cultivating the Mind of Christ, head to heart processing, commitment to God's will God's way, R.I.S.E. above your circumstances, and practice.
- Interact with God from the place of His intentionality toward you: Truth in the Inmost Being, Intimate Knowing, Love and Kindness, Trustworthiness
- Pay attention so that you don't aimlessly drift due to immaturity, insecurity, or impurity.
- Cultivate heart knowledge by meditating on God's word vs. skimming the surface.
- Meet God's intention for intimacy with your time, vulnerability, and submission to the relationship.