

- 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 these principles as you seek to receive all the newness of Jesus' New Wine:

A. REVIEW

- New Wine is the life of Christ and His living and active Word that become ours as members of His kingdom.
- Wineskin refers to the inner man that contains our beliefs, opinions, attitudes, and the behaviors that are an overflow of them.
- In Christ we are new creations and we have new hearts that are teachable and able to contain all the newness that Jesus wants to impart to us. (2 Cor 5:17, Ezek 36:26)
- The 2 examples of Old Wineskins in our passage were the Pharisees and the disciples of John the Baptist. (Matthew 9:9-19)
- The perspectives and priorities they brought to their encounter with Jesus prevented them from experiencing all the New Wine that was available to them. We all do this!
- Here are a few clarifications on principles from Lesson One:
 - The messages we hear from parents, church, culture, etc. can become rigid mindsets. Sometimes what we perceived is not the intended message.
 - Often we prioritize doing biblical activities over relationship with Christ. These activities are good things unless they are our hope for earning God's favor.
 - God has good works for us to do but they are intended to be the overflow of listening to and knowing Him and to be accomplished in His power. (Eph 2:10)
- We will experience newness in our relationship with God as we examine our lives for these Old Wineskins: 2 Peter 1:3 MSG-- Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received!
- Insights:

B. GO AND LEARN

- Jesus gave a strong imperative in our New Wine passage: Matthew 9:13-- Go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
- He quotes the priority God set forth in the Old Testament: Hosea 6:6 NLT-- I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.
- The Lord is asking us to become students of His mercy. If we pursue this knowledge we'll be less focused on our own efforts and abilities and see the truth of our need.
- Mercy, in Hebrew is "hesed" which is translated: mercy, favor, goodness, lovingkindness, and pity. (Strong's H2617)
- Hesed, used 251 times in the OT, describes God's heart of mercy as being redemptive, vast, eternal, absolute, and faithful to His covenant people. (Strong's)
- Crying out to God for mercy is the #1 prayer recorded in Scripture! This prayer moved the heart of God to bring compassion every single time it was prayed.
- Appealing for mercy means we're asking to be excused from the penalty of our sins but also knowing that God stands ready to say "yes" to that prayer.

- As we begin to understand the incredible gift of mercy it will help us take responsibility for our daily sins, knowing that God freely grants us mercy.
- Imagine how learning this in a deep way will impact your relationship with Him. Your desire to meet with Him and your trust in His perfect love for you will really grow!
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Reflect on your current attitudes about approaching the Lord (in listening, in prayer, in worship, in bringing an issue). What is your gut reaction?

How does knowing that God's mercy is always yours impact you? Does it change the way you think about God? Is it possible that it could change the way you see yourself?

- Insights:

C. OLD COVENANT MERCY

- The book of Hebrews explains the difference between the Old and the New Covenants. It was written to Jewish Christians and its authorship is unknown.
- Its contents can be a radical paradigm shift for those possessing Old Wineskins.
- Both covenants provide a way for sinful man to approach a holy and righteous God. The shedding of blood is necessary in the Old and the New: Lev 17:11 NLT-- I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood given in exchange for a life that makes purification possible.
- The tabernacle is where atonement was made for the sins of the Hebrew people. Only circumcised Jews were allowed there. (See Hebrews 5-9 for more details.)
- Priests carried out the duties associated with the sacrificial system in the tabernacle's 2 rooms, The Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.
- The Most Holy Place contained the Ark of the Covenant. On top of the Ark was the Mercy Seat. This was God's dwelling place on earth. (Leviticus 16:2)
- Once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), the high priest entered the Most Holy Place sprinkling blood on the Mercy Seat to pay for the sins of the people.
- The Most Holy Place was behind a veil preventing man from coming near to God. The veil was an enormous curtain 30 feet tall and extremely thick: Heb 9:8 NLT-- By these regulations the Holy Spirit revealed that the entrance to the Most Holy Place was not freely open as long as the Tabernacle and the system it represented were still in use.
- The Old Covenant is a type (picture) of the perfect sacrifice of the shed blood of Jesus that would satisfy the requirements of a holy God forever. (Heb 8:5, 9:28, 10:10)
- When Jesus came, just about everything regarding relating to the Lord changed. He ushered in the New Covenant and access to God and all His New Mercies!
- Insights:

D. NEW COVENANT MERCY

- Jesus mediates the New Covenant as our Great High Priest: Hebrews 7:16b MSG-- The former way of doing things, a system of commandments that never worked out the way it was supposed to, was set aside; the law brought nothing to maturity. Another way— Jesus!—a way that *does* work, that brings us right into the presence of God, is put in its place.
- For the Jewish reader, coming into the presence of the Living God would have been a shocking idea, but it's true! We can go directly to God and drink of New Wine: Heb 4:16 NIV-- Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- The first 2 verbs in this verse are very relevant to our connection with God:
 - Approach—to come to, to draw near to (Strong's G4334)
 - Receive- to take what is one's own, to take to one's self, to make one's own, to admit, receive what is offered, not to refuse or reject, to give access to one's self (G2983)
- Jesus is inviting us to boldly draw near to God to receive *what is already ours*. Mercy is ours for the taking, settled forever. Any guilt or condemnation is an Old Wineskin.
- So, no matter what we may have done or may be feeling, God invites us to come near: Lam 3:22-23 NLT-- The faithful love of the LORD never ends. His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
- Every single day can begin as a new day of living in newness of life because of God's great mercy. Our challenge is to approach and to receive from Him!
- As we practice God's presence, receiving His mercy, we will begin to find those soft new hearts inside. We will be stirred with fresh gratitude and love and faith!
- Prayers for mercy are evidence developing New Wineskins. Petitions for mercy indicate that these things are true of the one asking:
 - Willingness to admit personal weakness and brokenness
 - Coming to God without excuse but "just as I am without one plea"
 - Recognizing that what is deserved is God's wrath
 - Being repentant, ready to think and act differently
 - Realizing the inability to overcome ungodly desires or actions without Him
 - Believing what God says about having received the righteousness of Christ (2 Cor 5:21) so that bold and confidence access to Gods' Throne is forever ours.
- Here is a wonderful summary of the New Mercies Jesus made available to us. It would be a great place to meditate to enhance believing and receiving: Heb 10:19-22 AMP-- Therefore, brethren, since we have full freedom *and* confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By this fresh (new) and living way which He initiated *and* dedicated *and* opened for us through the separating curtain (veil of the Holy of Holies), that is, through His flesh, ²¹ And since we have [such] a great *and* wonderful *and* noble Priest [Who rules] over the house of God, ²² Let us all come forward *and* draw near with true (honest and sincere) hearts in unqualified assurance *and* absolute conviction engendered by faith (by that leaning of the entire human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness), having our hearts sprinkled *and* purified from a guilty (evil) conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water.
- Insights: