

Jesus Wept The Bible and Human Emotions Lesson 10 1Q 2011

Jealousy

SUNDAY

Where did jealousy begin? Isa 14:12-14:

How you have fallen from heaven,
 O morning star, son of the dawn!
 You have been cast down to the earth,
 you who once laid low the nations!

¹³ You said in your heart,
 "I will ascend to heaven;
 I will raise my throne
 above the stars of God;
 I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
 on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
 I will make myself like the Most High."

Who is this text referring to? Lucifer – what is the problem here?
 What is the root?

What do you think of the third paragraph, what insight does this
 give into what led to jealousy?

Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted
 concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he
 was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred. He desired to
 receive the highest honors in heaven next to God. {EW 145.1}

What was the source of jealousy? Was it not a basic
 misunderstanding of God, His nature, character and government?

In Isaiah 14:14 Lucifer said, "I will make myself like the Most High."

First, can a created being make himself like God?

Second, if Lucifer were to strive to actually be like God what would that have looked like?

What do we see in the life of Jesus, humble self-sacrifice. So what does it mean that Lucifer was striving to be like God and in doing so was seeking power, authority to rule, used practices of deceit and deception? Doesn't it mean that somewhere he had distorted in his mind the truth about God?

Read fourth paragraph, "By contrast..." thoughts? How does this save us? Why was this important? Is the lesson suggesting that Jesus came to reveal the truth about God to destroy the lies of Satan and win us to trust?

Read bottom green section, thoughts? Is it wrong to look at what others have, or is the problem in the motives when looking? Can you look at what someone else has and rejoice in their skill, ability, position, talent etc.? Can you look and be thankful the other person has their position, skill etc and not be jealous?

Can you also look at another and long to be like them without being jealous of them?

What did Paul mean when he said,

"Imitate me, then, just as I imitate Christ." 1Cor 11:1

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, "So often..." thoughts? How have you seen jealousy arise in families?

- It's not fair...
- Why does he get to do and I don't?
- She got to why cant I?
- You let...

How do you answer your children on such issues?

Should we treat our children the same or should we purposely seek to treat them differently?

If one of your children was suffering from diabetes would they get to eat the same foods as the other children or would they have a special diet?

If one of your children had a learning disability, speech impediment, might they get some special training the others didn't get why?

Do all of your children have the exact same temperament, attitudes, ability to learn, willingness to learn?

Should we recognize our children as individuals and seek to provide what each child needs to help them develop Christlike character?

Might one child respond well to one form of discipline while another child respond differently?

I don't apologize for treating kids differently. I tell them they are unique and get their own individualized parenting plan.

The lesson talks about the jealousy Joseph's brothers had and how that jealousy led them to sell him as a slave and tell their father he was dead. Can you imagine the level of cruelty to do such a thing? Not just to Joseph, but what about to Jacob?

Read fourth paragraph, "But Joseph's attitude..." thoughts? Do you think Joseph should have forgiven as he did, outright, or should he have required some appeasement, some legal payment, something to expiate his wrath? Is Joseph more forgiving than God? Why do we suggest that God requires a blood payment in order to forgive?

Was Jesus death necessary to get God to forgive us or did God forgive outright and then send Jesus to fulfill a different purpose in our salvation?

What happens in your attitude toward God if you believe Jesus had to die in order to get God to forgive?

THURSDAY

Jealousy toward Jesus? Was there anyone jealous of Jesus when he was on earth? Was it the common people? Who was jealous of Jesus? Why?

Why would those who have dedicated their lives to studying scripture, why would religious leaders, theologians be jealous of Jesus?

What could have led these Bible scholars to get it so wrong?

As someone told me, while we press forward in the truth we must be sure not to go so far we go over an edge and fall off.

Now I have spent several years thinking about this – is there anything that can secure us in truth and keep us from going over a theological edge of error?

- In the study of the sciences also, we are to obtain a knowledge of the Creator. **All true science is but an interpretation of the handwriting of God in the material world.** Science brings from her research only fresh evidences of the wisdom and power of God. **Rightly understood, both the book of nature and the written word make us acquainted with God** by teaching us something of the wise and beneficent laws through which he works. {CE 66.2}
- **Rightly understood, both the revelations of science and the experiences of life are in harmony with the testimony of Scripture to the constant working of God in nature.** {Ed 130.3}

What do we hear? There are three threads of evidence that are to be harmonized, scripture, science and experience.

God's kingdom is not a theoretical kingdom but a real kingdom constructed with real elements, molecules, substance, individuals.

The problem with some is that they reject two of the three evidentiary threads and cling only to scripture, which becomes unanchored and thus they go over theological edges.

What happens if we study science disconnected and divorced from scripture? We become unanchored and go over the edge of evolutionism or godlessness. What happens if we study scripture divorced from science and experience? We go over the edge of false theologies which misrepresent God – this is exactly what has happened.

God's kingdom is built in harmony with His laws, His testable laws and this is scientific. Those who reject this and insist on using scripture divorced from science and experience can twist the scriptures to say anything they want. Some of the greatest opponents to our class take the approach that divorces scripture from science and experience.

Fortunately, one of the founders of our church didn't:

Experience is said to be the best teacher. Genuine experience is indeed superior to mere theoretical knowledge, but many have an erroneous idea as to what constitutes experience. **Real experience is gained by a variety of careful experiments, made with the mind free from prejudice, uncontrolled by previously established opinions and habits.** The results are marked with careful solicitude, and an anxious **desire to learn, to improve, and to reform on every point that is not in harmony with physical and moral laws.** {CTBH 109.1}

That which many term experience is not experience at all; it has resulted from mere habit, or from a course of indulgence, thoughtlessly and often ignorantly followed. There **has not been a fair trial by actual experiment and thorough investigation, with a knowledge of the principles involved in the action. Experience which is opposed to natural law,--which is in conflict with the unchangeable principles of nature,--is not to be relied upon.** Superstition arising from a diseased imagination is often arrayed in

opposition to reason and to scientific principles. To many a person, the idea that others may gainsay what he has learned by experience, seems folly, and even cruelty itself. But there are more errors received and held through false ideas of experience than from any other cause. There are many invalids today who will ever remain such because they cannot be convinced that their experience is not to be relied upon. {CTBH 109.2}

There is a science of Christianity to be mastered,--a science as much deeper, broader, higher than any human science as the heavens are higher than the earth. The mind is to be disciplined, educated, trained; for we are to do service for God in ways that are not in harmony with **inborn inclination**. There are **hereditary** and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. ... Every act, every word, every thought, is to be in accord with these principles. {8T 314.1}

What anchors can we have when pushing forward in the truth?

- Jesus is the lens through which we understand God – any doctrine of God that is contrary to what we see in the life of Jesus is wrong, misunderstood
- Jesus is the lens through which we understand the OT scripture, we do not understand Jesus through the lens of the OT.
- God's testable laws, the law of liberty, law of love, law of worship, laws of nature and science. God does not violate His laws as they originate in His character. Thus theologies which have God in the position of violating liberty, being cosmic executioner, forcing, intimidating, coercing are wrong for they are contrary to testable laws.

Every law governing the human system is to be strictly regarded; for it is as truly a law of God as is the word of Holy Writ; and every willful deviation from obedience to this law is as certainly sin as a violation of the moral law. All nature expresses the law of God, but in our physical structure Jehovah has written His law with His own finger upon every

thrilling nerve, upon every living fiber, and upon every organ of the body. We shall suffer loss and defeat, if we step out of nature's path, which God Himself has marked out, into one of our own devising. {Temperance 213.5}

Perfection of character cannot be attained when the **laws of nature are disregarded; for this is transgression of the law of God. His law is written by His own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, every fiber of our being, upon every faculty which has been entrusted to man.** These gifts are bestowed, not to be abused and corrupted, but to be used to His honor and glory in the uplifting of humanity.... {OHC 266.2}

The **relation that exists between mind and body is very intimate: when one is affected, the other is always more or less in sympathy.** It is **impossible** for men, while under the power of sinful, health-destroying habits, to appreciate sacred truths. When the intellect is clouded, the moral powers are enfeebled, and sin does not look sinful. The most ennobling, grand, and glorious themes of God's Word seem but idle tales. Satan can then easily snatch away the good seed that has been sown in the heart; for the soul is in no condition to comprehend or understand its true value. It is thus that selfish, health-destroying indulgences are counteracting the influence of the message which is to prepare a people for the great day of God. {OHC 266.3}

"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." **Selfishness is death.** No organ of the body could live should it confine its service to itself. The heart, failing to send its lifeblood to the hand and the head, would quickly lose its power. As our lifeblood, so is the love of Christ diffused through every part of His mystical body. We are members one of another, and the soul that refuses to impart will perish. And "what is a man profited," said Jesus, "if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" {DA 417.2}

In order to do successful work for the Lord, we must be willing to do and to suffer cheerfully for His sake. **Selfishness is death.** No organ of the body could live, should it confine its service to itself. The heart, failing to send its life-blood to the hand and the head, would quickly lose its power. We are members one of another, and the soul that refuses to impart will perish. {ST, February 3, 1904 par. 5}

Christ came to this earth "as He that serveth." The angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." **The same law of service is written upon all things in nature.** The birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the trees of the forest, the leaves, the grass, and the flowers, the sun in the heavens, and the stars of light,--all have their ministry. Lake and ocean, river and water-spring,--each takes to give. {ST, February 3, 1904 par. 6}

Any examples of how scripture divorced from God's testable laws, science and nature, result in false theologies?

- HyperCalvinism – God predetermines who will be saved and who will be lost, we have no choice – this theology is based on reading scripture divorced from the law of liberty, which is a testable law and which reveals love cannot exist in an atmosphere without freedom
- God will use His power to inflict pain and suffering and torment upon sinners – again, violates God's law of love and liberty, violates the evidence demonstrated in the life of Christ and thus leads to false ideas about God

Does it matter if our theology becomes twisted?

- **The position that it is of no consequence what men believe, is one of Satan's most successful deceptions.** He knows that the **truth, received in the love of it, sanctifies the soul of the receiver;** therefore he is constantly seeking to substitute false theories, fables, another gospel. From the beginning, the servants of God have contended against false teachers, not merely as vicious men, but as inculcators of falsehoods that were fatal to the soul. Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul,

firmly and fearlessly opposed those who were turning men from the Word of God. {GC88 520.2}

- The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. **There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood.** It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself. {DA 671.1}

Read second paragraph, "How often..." thoughts?

What evidence did Christ provide that was most convincing? What evidence is to be relied upon and what evidence is not ultimately most convincing?

What about evidence of miracles? Was this the most persuasive evidence Christ gave? Why or why not?

Can miracles be counterfeited? What about a talking serpent? What can Satan not counterfeit? The perfect selfless life of Christ in harmony with God's laws and principles. A human being living out God's character perfectly this is the greatest miracle and evidence of His identity.

The Apostles performed miracles, but they did not have perfect character!

Read third paragraph, "Perhaps because..." thoughts? Could this same thing be a problem in our day, in our church?

When a movement becomes institutionalized it often loses its mission and stops moving forward and instead becomes focused on

institutional security, protection and promotion – are we in danger of this?

What can we do to revitalize the church to fulfill its mission to get off the need to protect the institution and instead stand up to do what is right – promote the final message of mercy to the world?

TUESDAY

The lesson is about Saul's jealousy of David – thoughts or questions about this?

Why was Saul jealous? Was Saul afraid? Of what was Saul afraid?

What error in thinking led Saul to become afraid of David? Did Saul come to believe he had some right to the throne? Did Saul come to believe he was on the throne by his own authority and needed to rely on self to protect what he had?

Notice fear and selfishness is the root of jealousy. What if Saul would have remembered that he was merely fulfilling God's purpose for Israel and that he would serve as long as God wanted him to?

Do we ever come to think that our position is because of our ability or right, and forget we serve at God's will? Do you have the attitude that if God has another who can do it better that would be okay? Or do we feel we need to protect self?

Read fifth paragraph, "Jealousy generates..." thoughts?

Why does jealousy generate negative emotions? Because our consciences convict us when we act upon jealousy, in our hearts, judgment, conscience we know we are wrong. We can twist our minds as much as we want but we get no peace until we embrace the truth and stop trying to make life work out our way.

WEDNESDAY

Read fifth paragraph, "Saul, by letting..." thoughts?

Is there any sin that doesn't hurt us? Why are we injured when we sin? From where does the injury arise?

Does God send angels to punish sin? Where does the idea that God must punish sin arise?

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice.** When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. {DA 761.4}

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. **By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.** {1SM 235.2}

Thoughts? What impact does it have on your attitude toward God if you believe that God is required to punish sin? Why does He not have to?

What has God been using His power to do, punish sin, or hold back the full consequences that sin would have otherwise brought?

FRIDAY

Read question 2 – thoughts? The Bible says,

“Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” EX 34:14

What does this mean? If jealousy is evil, how can God be jealous?

Is there a difference between God being jealous for the good of another, for another’s happiness and being jealous for self?

Dictionary definitions of jealousy:

- 1: a** : intolerant of rivalry or unfaithfulness **b** : disposed to suspect rivalry or unfaithfulness
- 2**: hostile toward a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage
- 3**: vigilant in guarding a possession

Read and discuss questions 1 and 4