



2019 Q3 The Least of These: Lesson 13

A Community of Servants

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Laws of the Mind

1. Law of Love: We are happiest / most complete when we are serving others.
 - We are designed for service not self-service.
2. Law of Worship: by beholding we become changed
 - (we become like what we focus our attention and thoughts)
3. What we believe we speak
 - (We can't help from expressing what we think / believe.)
4. Thoughts are strengthened / encouraged as we speak them.
5. The mind adapts to what it dwells upon: bigger ideas vs smaller
 - (The effect of thinking about God vs thinking about ourselves.)
6. Law of Giving: We get more when we give more.
 - (Our capacity increases as we utilize our abilities to give away what we have.
 - ♦ Law of exertion
 - ♦ Law of Love
7. Law of Rest (Sabbath Rest): An expenditure of energy requires a period of rest and recuperation.
8. First Impressions are more lasting than later ones.

Design Laws are liberating / Imposed Laws are restrictive.

Memory Text: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." Hebrews 10:23, 24 NKJV

Read memory verse in various versions. What does the last sentence mean? The church as a community of servants.

Read the second paragraph. What is the purpose of us individually?

- As a church?
- Is it any different?

SABBATH

Read second paragraph "The temptation is that when we . . ." What is our purpose as individual humans? As a church, is it any different?

What prevents me from being the person that I should be and functioning as I should?

- Disease of sin
- Fear
- Selfishness
- Distraction



What prevents my church congregation from being what it should be?

“A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do.” Matthew 7:17-20 (GNT)

There are 3 statements here:

1. How much of the time is spent on the 1st vs the 2nd vs the 3rd?
2. the second often engenders fear
3. the 3rd often diverts our attention to others away from diagnosing ourselves.

Typically the force of a paragraph is the first statement or sentence.

- We remember ideas via 1,2,3,4
- #1 & #4
- #2
- #3 is least remembered

The devil works for us to remember and concentrate on #3 & #4 and not get the idea of the statement!

The Law was given for myself, My function/abilities are given for others. Often too much of my time is spent in applying the wrong instrument to myself vs others.

SUNDAY

Agents of Change

The purpose of the church

This is not evolution; This is restoration! Our culture is so inundated with the principles of self and evolution that we see (our paradigm of vision) in an evolutionary manner.

Read the first paragraph. The church was different in what way from what came before?

Metaphors for God's people

- sacrifice
- Christ's body
- ambassadors
- perfume

Each of the entities has an inherent function because of what or who they are.

Read the 3rd paragraph: “Each of these images has action. . .” Most of our angst, challenges, problems as a church body revolve around how we, personally, do not approve of how someone else is acting / functioning / interacting with us.

- “Not my circus; Not my monkeys”



Read the 4th paragraph: “But they also can be considered . . .” An embassy under international law:

- What is it’s purpose?
- What would happen if ?
- Terrorist activities
- subterfuge
- spying

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In this world that is built on force and imposed functional law, those activities give the perpetrators an advantage.

It destroys relationships, purpose and function in a design law construct. “From that sin they reap death. . .”

“God uses us to make the knowledge about Christ spread everywhere like a sweet fragrance. For we are like a sweet-smelling incense offered by Christ to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being lost. For those who are being lost, it is a deadly stench that kills; but for those who are being saved, it is a fragrance that brings life.” 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (GNT)

Talks about stench vs fragrance of life... What is the source?

“For we are like a sweet-smelling incense offered by Christ to God, which spreads among those who are being saved and those who are being lost. For those who are being lost, it is a deadly stench that kills; but for those who are being saved, it is a fragrance that brings life. Who, then, is capable for such a task? We are not like so many others, who handle God's message as if it were cheap merchandise; but because God has sent us, we speak with sincerity in his presence, as servants of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 2:15-17 (GNT)

It is by conversion that we become God’s messengers of His grace and peace.

- John 3:5 We cannot see the Kingdom of God without being born again.
- John 3:8 We must be influenced by the Spirit.

MONDAY

A Servant Remnant

Read Exodus 32:7 – 10 And they closed the Bible and said, “God said it, I believe it, and that is all there is to it.”

“So the Lord changed his mind and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.” Exodus 32:14



How do you understand what we have just written?

Does God know the end from the beginning?

Israel's majestic God does not lie or change his mind. He is not a human being—he does not change his mind." 1 Samuel 15:29 (GNT)

“Remember what happened long ago; acknowledge that I alone am God and that there is no one else like me. From the beginning I predicted the outcome; long ago I foretold what would happen. I said that my plans would never fail, that I would do everything I intended to do.” Isaiah 46:9, 10 (GNT)

“Remember the first events, because I am God, and there is no other. I am God, and there’s no one like me. From the beginning I revealed the end. From long ago I told you things that had not yet happened, saying, “My plan will stand, and I’ll do everything I intended to do.” Isaiah 46:9-10 (GW)

“My word, which comes from my mouth, is like the rain and snow. It will not come back to me without results. It will accomplish whatever I want and achieve whatever I send it to do.” Isaiah 55:11 (GW)

Who wrote this account of the story?

- Moses
- This is what it felt like, seemed like, occurred from Moses’ perspective while living through the story first hand.

This is a “funny story” about Moses arguing with God. It is my understanding that this is a test of Moses.

What is the purpose of a test?

- Verify knowledge / ability
- Diagnose a condition
- Motivate a student to study
- Teach a student something about the material to be learned.
- Prepare student for future milestones or tests

Is a test ever for the examiner’s benefit? Who benefitted from this test of Moses?

- Moses
- COI
- Universe
- God (Did God’s kingdom add some more evidence regarding God’s ability to save and to heal a broken human being?)

We could also discuss similarly with regard to the test of Job.

Read the last paragraph: “As Moses interceded for . . .” and Ezekiel 20:21,22

Why did God not follow through with His threat?

- Reputation
- That is not like God!



TUESDAY

Reaching Souls

Are our actions tools to be used to influence people for the kingdom?

Read second and third paragraph: “Christ’s method alone will give. . . .” Why did Christ “use this method”? Was it to evangelize his listeners?

The last sentence of the fourth paragraph says: “In short, one of the best ways to reach others with our message is to minister to their needs.”

Is a caring church using a method when we care for others? Is this not what we are?

Look at the metaphors that Christ used for descriptions of his followers:

- does salt use saltiness to reach others
- does a candle use light to influence its area of illumination?
- Does a tree bear fruit to influence those who eat to come closer to the tree?
- Does a shepherd do good things for the sheep to influence them to follow him?
- Do you wear a wedding garment (dress up in appropriate clothing for the occasion or location) to reach others about you or your message? Is it not to honor the wedding party? To make their day complete?
- Do you become someone you aren’t when you wear these clothes?

Read the two texts in the middle of the page (1 Peter 2:12 and Philippians 2:15).

Read the fifth paragraph: “With a broader understanding of God’s good news, . . .)

Read Isaiah 58:6, 7 “The kind of fasting I want is this: “

Read Luke 4:14, 15 “Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him.”

WEDNESDAY

Grace Within the Church

Read the first paragraph on the page: “At the beginning of the book. . . .”

Texts: “What nation? . . .”

“What great nation ever had their gods as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we pray to him? Or what other great nation has such fair laws and rules as all these teachings I am giving you today?” Deuteronomy 4:7-8 (GW)

“That is why you are great, Lord God. There is no one like you, and there is no other god except you, as we have heard with our own ears. Who is like your people Israel? It is the one nation on earth that God came to free in order to make its people his own, to make his name known, and to do great and wonderful things for them. You forced nations and their gods out of the way of your people, whom you



freed from Egypt to be your own. You created the people of Israel to be your people forever. And you, Lord, became their God.” 2 Samuel 7:22-24 (GW)

“Who is like your people Israel? It is the one nation on earth that God came to free in order to make its people his own, to make your name known, and to do great and wonderful things for them.” 1 Chronicles 17:21 (GW)

Without the influence of divine grace, education will prove no real advantage; the learner becomes proud, vain, and bigoted. But that education which is received under the ennobling, refining influence of the great Teacher, will elevate man in the scale of moral value with God. It will enable him to subdue pride and passion, and to walk humbly before God, as dependent upon him for every capability, every opportunity, and every privilege. {CE 42.2}

“If we would follow Jesus, we cannot restrict our interest and affection to ourselves and our own families; we cannot give our time and attention to temporal matters, and forget the eternal interests of those around us. I have been shown that it is the result of our selfishness that there are not one hundred young men, where now there is one, engaged in earnest labor for the salvation of their fellow-men.” CE. 43.2

“Women can be the instruments of righteousness, rendering holy service. It was Mary that first preached a risen Jesus.... If there were twenty women where now there is one, who would make this holy mission their cherished work, we should see many more converted to the truth. The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth.”—The Review and Herald, January 2, 1879. {Ev 471.5}

“Christ is saying to us, “O ye of little faith.” Our hearts must be worked by the Holy Spirit. We must believe that the Lord wants us to come to Him just as we are, without any delay, and in faith call upon Him to work for us. The Lord desires to manifest His power among His people. Where there is now one at work there should be more than a thousand, not ordained ministers, but men and women of faith and prayer, who can work for God....” {5MR 336.2}

THURSDAY

Encourage Each Other to Good Works

How do you get courage?

There are seven major factors that contribute to rate of teen car accidents.

- Driver inexperience. ...
- Distracted driving. ...
- Not wearing seat belts. ...
- Drinking and driving. ...
- Reckless driving. ...
- Driving with teen passengers. ...
- Texting and driving.



Tefft, B.C., Williams, A.F. & Grabowski, J.G. (2012). Teen Driver Risk in Relation to Age and Number of Passengers. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Compared to driving with no passengers, a 16- or 17-year-old driver's risk of death per mile driven:

- Increases 44% when carrying one passenger younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
- Doubles when carrying two passengers younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
- Quadruples when carrying three or more passengers younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
- Decreases 62% when a passenger aged 35 or older is in the vehicle

How do you know you are doing God's will? Results?

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21 (KJV)

Don't be stupid like a horse or a mule, which must be controlled with a bit and bridle to make it submit. Psalms 32:9 (GNT)

You people who live in Jerusalem will not weep any more. The Lord is compassionate, and when you cry to him for help, he will answer you. The Lord will make you go through hard times, but he himself will be there to teach you, and you will not have to search for him any more. If you wander off the road to the right or the left, you will hear his voice behind you saying, "Here is the road. Follow it. Isaiah 30:19-21 (GNT)

You have to be quiet enough to hear his whisper.

God voice is seldom in the fire, storms, or earthquakes.

Discussions in this class have often touted the Integrative Approach

- Bible
- Science
- Reason/Experience

FRIDAY

Further Thoughts

Read comments and highlighted section.

Read various highlighted areas of the Teachers Comments

New Lesson for this coming three months: Ezra & Nehemiah



A Sermon to Myself

Thanatopsis

by William Cullen Bryant

To him who in the love of Nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks
A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings, with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware. When thoughts
Of the last bitter hour come like a blight
Over thy spirit, and sad images
Of the stern agony, and shroud, and pall,
And breathless darkness, and the narrow house,
Make thee to shudder, and grow sick at heart;—
Go forth, under the open sky, and list
To Nature's teachings, while from all around—
Earth and her waters, and the depths of air—
Comes a still voice—Yet a few days, and thee
The all-beholding sun shall see no more
In all his course; nor yet in the cold ground,
Where thy pale form was laid, with many tears,
Nor in the embrace of ocean, shall exist
Thy image. Earth, that nourished thee, shall claim
Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again,
And, lost each human trace, surrendering up
Thine individual being, shalt thou go
To mix for ever with the elements,
To be a brother to the insensible rock
And to the sluggish clod, which the rude swain
Turns with his share, and treads upon. The oak
Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce thy mould.
Yet not to thine eternal resting-place
Shalt thou retire alone, nor couldst thou wish
Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie down
With patriarchs of the infant world—with kings,
The powerful of the earth—the wise, the good,
Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,
All in one mighty sepulchre. The hills
Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun,—the vales
Stretching in pensive quietness between;
The venerable woods—rivers that move
In majesty, and the complaining brooks

That make the meadows green; and, poured round all,
Old Ocean's gray and melancholy waste,—
Are but the solemn decorations all
Of the great tomb of man. The golden sun,
The planets, all the infinite host of heaven,
Are shining on the sad abodes of death,
Through the still lapse of ages. All that tread
The globe are but a handful to the tribes
That slumber in its bosom.—Take the wings
Of morning, pierce the Barcan wilderness,
Or lose thyself in the continuous woods
Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound,
Save his own dashings—yet the dead are there:
And millions in those solitudes, since first
The flight of years began, have laid them down
In their last sleep—the dead reign there alone.
So shalt thou rest, and what if thou withdraw
In silence from the living, and no friend
Take note of thy departure? All that breathe
Will share thy destiny. The gay will laugh
When thou art gone, the solemn brood of care
Plod on, and each one as before will chase
His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come
And make their bed with thee. As the long train
Of ages glide away, the sons of men,
The youth in life's green spring, and he who goes
In the full strength of years, matron and maid,
The speechless babe, and the gray-headed man—
Shall one by one be gathered to thy side,
By those, who in their turn shall follow them.
So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.



The Sabbath

So live each day of the week, that on Sabbath we “can be about our Father’s business.” So rushed from our week we are unable to commune with our maker, help our fellow human beings, be restored with being a servant.

What would a Sabbath look like if we truly were being God-like in our actions, communication, and thoughts?

Jesus “worked on the Sabbath”

"The kind of fasting I want is this: Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free. Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives." Isaiah 58:6-7 (GNT)

The Lord says, "If you treat the Sabbath as sacred and do not pursue your own interests on that day; if you value my holy day and honor it by not traveling, working, or talking idly on that day, then you will find the joy that comes from serving me. I will make you honored all over the world, and you will enjoy the land I gave to your ancestor, Jacob. I, the Lord, have spoken." Isaiah 58:13-14 (GNT with Deuterocanon)