



2024 3Q The Book of Mark Lesson 8 Teaching Disciples: Part II

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

SABBATH

Read Memory Verse:

- For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NIV84).

What does this text mean?

First that Jesus did not come to lord over others, to use power and might to force His way, to be a ruler that rules from law, from enforcement, from demands, that His government does not work like human governments but Jesus,

- Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:6-8 NIV84).

God’s kingdom is the kingdom of love, built upon design laws, the protocols reality functions upon. And what God wants is our love, trust, loyalty, devotion, and for us to be trustworthy friends of His. The only way He can achieve this is through truth, love, and freedom. God must win us to choose to trust Him; He must win our love. He cannot have a universe that He wants by using the methods of Satan.

Satan’s kingdom is built upon fear, selfishness, and the rule of law, the imposition of made-up laws that require external enforcement. It is the kingdom in which the elites, the betters, those who think they deserve more seek to rise above the rest, place themselves on the throne of power, and rule over the masses through imposed law and law enforcement. Lucifer said,

- “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.” (Isaiah 14:13 NIV84).

Satan’s kingdom is built upon imposed laws, power, might, and ruling over others through force and punishment.

God's kingdom is built upon love, truth, and freedom. In God's kingdom the king gives of Himself to bless and build up the masses. In Satan's kingdom the king exploits and takes from the masses in order to build up himself and retain his power, position, advantages, and prestige. All the kingdoms of the worlds are Satan's for they all operate this way.

The founding documents of the USA were intended to limit the ability of the few to rise over and exploit the many. But you are witnessing the erosion of those protections, which the Bible foretold would happen before the second coming of Christ. Before the second coming of Christ the entire world will join together to use law and law enforcement to exploit the people and coerce consciences—and all but the very elect will be deceived why? Because all but the very elect will believe the lie that God's law functions like human law and therefore believe that justice is achieved through law and law enforcement. So to them, it will be understood to be only right or just to punish people who refuse to comply with what they believe are righteous laws.

So this text informs us that Jesus did not come to rule in this way, did not come to lord over, did not come to demand through threats of punishments and law enforcement obedience and compliance, but came to provide us all with what we need to break free from the infection of fear and selfishness that infects our hearts and causes us to seek security in imposed law and law enforcement, so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

This text is also often used in support of the idea that Jesus had to die to pay a legal penalty to His Father to pay for our sins, this is another error or manifestation of believing the lie that God's law functions like human law.

Back in 2010 when we first started our ministry, some of you might remember that we had several meetings with local church leaders and theology professors from the local university. They insisted that the book *The Cross of Christ* by George Knight be the reference book for our discussions. It is a book that works very hard to make the Bible sound like it teaches the imposed law view.

I believe the author to be sincere in his love for the Lord and his desire to present the truth in its purest light, but despite good intentions, one cannot present what they do not understand and it is clear throughout the book that the author does not understand God's law is design law, but believes the lie that God's law functions like human law, imposed rules requiring legal payment.

This becomes evident in his discussion on the question of ransom. He clearly wants to present God in the best possible light and the plan of salvation consistent with Scripture, but because he holds to the lie that God's law functions like human law he traps himself and gives up the search for truth.

Here are some selections from the book,

- Christ took it upon Himself to pay the redemption price for human freedom. “For the Son of man,” Jesus told His bickering disciples, “also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a *ransom* [sic] for many” (Mark 10:45)...

We need to emphasize two points regarding Christ's redemption. One is that He willingly "gave" Himself for the task as an act of grace (Mark 10:45; 1 Tim 2:6). The second is that the ransom price was His "blood" (1 Peter 1:19).

The second point has raised innumerable questions about, and distortions of, the redemption/ransom word picture. Many have asked regarding to whom He paid the ransom. Did Christ have to "pay off" God in bribery fashion? (Knight, G. *The Cross of Christ* p. 68-69).

He goes on to make it clear that God is not the one being paid, and also describes how in ancient times it was taught that Satan received the payment but got tricked by God and lost his hold on Jesus too; but he rightly rejects that explanation and recounts how most modern theologians also reject that view. Then he goes on to say the following, and note, he has rightly rejected the lie that God needed a payment, and rejected the lie that Satan received a payment, but now not having the truth about God's law he is trapped and writes,

- "We do **not**, therefore, have to be **concerned with whom the ransom payment went to**.

Leon Morris writes "that in the New Testament **there is never any hint of a recipient of the ransom**. In other words[,] we must understand redemption as a useful metaphor which enables us to see some aspects of Christ's great saving work with clarity but which is not an exact description of the whole process of salvation. We must not press it beyond what the New Testament tells us about it. To look for a recipient of the ransom is illegitimate. We have no reason for pressing every detail. We must use the metaphor in the way the New Testament writes did or we fall into error." (Knight, G. *The Cross of Christ* p. 70, emphasis mine).

Do you see the problem? They recognize Jesus did something to free us from bondage to sin, but they can't actually describe what because they don't yet understand reality, because they don't understand design law.

So the most common result of this is to either say, "We take it on faith and must stop thinking, stop reasoning, stop examining the evidence, because to do so would cause us to fall into error." Or they substitute God's law as the recipient of the payment, which is what I have heard multiple penal/legal theologians do. They say the payment was not made to God or Satan, but to the law, it is what the law required. But they also teach that the law is a transcript of God's character and comes out from God, so in truth they are still teaching the payment went to God, but try to pretend they don't teach this by substituting God's law for God. And thus, they take the cross and twist it to support the lie that God's law functions like that of a creature, and therefore God is nothing more in character and function than a creature.

When we return to worshipping God as Creator and recognize His law is design law, then all of this falls into place and we have perfect harmony with all of Scripture and Scripture does teach to whom the blood payment was made. Jesus Himself taught it in John 6 when He said,

- “I tell you the truth, unless **you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever** eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. **Whoever** eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.” (John 6:53-56 NIV84, emphasis mine).

Jesus taught it in the communion service, when He gave the symbolic bread and wine which represent His body and blood to sinners and the sinners internalize it. The broken body and shed blood are handed by Jesus to His followers—it is quite straightforward who receives the payment. But it doesn't make sense to teach this if the problem is legal, it only makes sense when we realize the sin problem is not legal, it is lethal, it is our actual condition of heart and mind—we are sin-filled, infected, diseased, broken and we are the ones who need healing, cleansing, restoring. We are the ones held captive in sin.

And thus, when we return to design law, we realize that a ransom is the price paid to free one held in bondage. We understand that we are held in bondage not by physical might, not by physical cages, not by evil angels using flaming swords, but by the lies we believe about God that keeps us from trusting God, that keep our minds and hearts enslaved to fear and selfishness—including the false penal/legal theologies that teach we must be protected from a god who will use his power to torture and kill us, and also by our own fallen, fear-filled, selfish, carnal natures.

And when we return to design law and worshiping our Creator and reject the Roman dictator god of imposed law and imposed punishments, we realize that the price to set us free is the price of truth that destroys lies and wins us to trust, and a new nature, a new sinless life, that no human descended from Adam could provide because we are all born in sin conceived in iniquity. So Jesus did what we could not do.

Being **fully God** He revealed the truth about God that destroys the lies and wins us to trust. And being **fully human** He lived a sinless life and developed a perfect sinless human character. He restored God's living law of love into humanity and purged the infection of fear and selfishness from humanity. Thus, when we trust Jesus based on the truth He provided, we open the heart and receive a new nature—we become partakers of the divine nature, it is no longer I that lives but Christ lives in me. We no longer are controlled by the sinful spirit of fear, but by the Holy Spirit of love. We ingest into our hearts and minds the reality of what the bread and wine represent.

This is reality, it is not fantasy. But this reality gets obscured when we replace God's design law with the lie that God's law functions like human law and teach salvation is a legal process to pay legal debt and get legal declarations in a courtroom as far away from our sin-sick hearts and minds as we can possibly imagine.

SUNDAY

The lesson is on God's design for marriage. What questions do you have about this?

Why do you think God create humans as male and female? Did He have to do it this way? Was there a divine purpose? What?

Humans were created in the image of God, does male and female and the ability to procreate as God designed us give any insight into who God is?

When the Bible says that the two, husband and wife, become one, does that mean they cease being individuals?

Is there a lesson in this for us about the Godhead?

When a husband and wife join together in love, as God designed, they procreate children in their image. Is there a lesson in this about the Godhead?

God told Adam and Eve in Eden, before they sinned, to be fruitful and multiple—what would their family have looked like, how would it have functioned, how would Adam and Eve as parents treated their children and the grandchildren, great grandchildren and all of humanity IF they would have had children in a world without sin?

What type of leadership would Adam and Eve have provided if sin never entered the human species? Would it be lording over on thrones or loving service like Jesus?

Does this say something about God and how He runs His universe?

In the opening of our magazine, [The Wedding of Christ to His Bride: Preparing the Church for the Second Coming](#) we read,

One of the most beautiful descriptions the Bible gives of God's plan of salvation is that of a Bridegroom, which represents Christ, being wedded to a bride, which represents His people—the church.

*"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for **I am married to you** (Jeremiah 3:14 NKJV, emphasis mine).*

***For your Maker is your husband**—the LORD Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth (Isaiah 54:5 NIV84, emphasis mine).*

***I promised you to one husband, to Christ**, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him (2 Corinthians 11:2 NIV84, emphasis mine).*

A wedding is a joyful event in which two hearts unite in love, devotion, loyalty, and friendship. A marriage, as God designed, is not a legal declaration but an intertwining of hearts, minds, and selves into a greater whole—it is a holy union.

Godly marriage brings two intelligent beings into a type of oneness that defies human logic—a oneness in which each individual retains their unique identities but, simultaneously, under the power of love and trust, function as a greater whole, a bonded, integrated unit or team, that shares the same values, principles, motives, and methods.

In a holy marriage, each person rejoices in the advancement and success of the other person and celebrates every opportunity to invest in the welfare of their partner. It is a mutually rewarding circle of beneficence in which love flows freely from heart to heart. In such a loving union, the two individuals expand, ennoble, develop, and elevate beyond that which either person would be able to experience or achieve on their own. It is in this unity of love that people flourish and become truly godlike, and, over time, their love grows, deepens, and strengthens even further.

The magazine goes on to say,

- *But a healthy marriage requires healthy people. One cannot have a healthy marriage with a cheat, or someone who is abusive, domineering, controlling, exploitive, and controlled by selfishness. Healthy marriages require the individuals to not only have love in their hearts, but to also be trustworthy, loyal, faithful people who have the best interest of their spouse paramount in their heart and who would sacrifice self for the welfare of their spouse.*

Can we still see truths about God and His original design from marriage, having children, parenting, and families?

Doesn't the Bible use the lesson of marriage to describe Christ and the church?

Do you think Satan wants us to learn these lessons?

Have we seen marriages and families come under attack by Satan?

What about the question of divorce?

The Bible says that God hates divorce, (Malachi 2:16), yet God through Moses gave them the method and means to divorce. What is going on? Why would God give them a method to divorce if He hates it?

Read Mark 10:2-9:

- Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

“What did Moses command you?” he replied.

They said, “Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.”

“It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,” Jesus replied. “But at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Mark 10:2-9 NIV84).

What is the reason they were permitted to divorce?

Because of the hardness of their hearts. When we understand Scripture through design law it is quite simple to understand why God hates divorce and yet permits it.

Doctors hate to amputate limbs but, not only permit it, have specific standards, procedures, and methods on how and when to do it. And why do doctors who hate to amputate limbs do so? When the arteries have hardened and the life-giving blood stops circulating and the limb becomes gangrenous, then they amputate to save the life.

So too, God permitted divorce when their hearts hardened and the life-giving love of God stopped flowing and the only way left to prevent further destruction was to sever the toxic and destructive relationship.

So, what are the grounds for divorce?

MONDAY

Read Mark 10:13-16:

- People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16 NIV84).

What do you make of this?

What does it mean to receive the kingdom of heaven like a little child?

Does it mean: To trust without evidence like little children trust adults and are easily duped and taken advantage of?

Consider this historical quotation and Bible commentary, do you agree with its application of Jesus' words:

- But he also stated truth that is of general application. He said, “Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child [**ready to be taught and led of Christ, ready to believe in him as a personal Saviour**], he shall not enter therein.” Men and women are only grown-up children. They are under discipline to God even as children are under discipline to their earthly parents. The church is composed of men and women who have the same nature, the same dispositions, as did the little children who were brought to Christ. The members of our churches are composed of persons who have like impulses, who manifest the likes and dislikes, who display the same passions, as did the children who upon receiving Christ were to compose his heavenly kingdom. How appropriate it was that these children should be brought **to Christ for his intercession and blessing! They were types of what the members of his church should become.** The children of God are to possess the humility, the loving trust, the teachable spirit, the innocence, uncorrupted by worldly deception, that were possessed by the little children. (Signs of the Times April 9, 1896, emphasis mine).

We become like little children when we are willing to be taught and led by Christ, to trust Him. Does that mean Jesus wants us to believe without understanding, without asking questions, to follow simply because He said so?

Not according to Jesus who said,

- I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15 NIV84).

Again, remember what God wants—He wants our trust, love, loyalty and friendship and this can only be achieved by persuading us in our own minds to agree and choose to love and trust Him, to open the heart to Him. This is why the Bible teaches:

- “Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18 NIV84).

And that every person is to be fully persuaded in their own mind (Romans 14:5). For it is only by our agreement, our choice to trust that we can be healed, transformed, changed and still be ourselves. If God were to use any other method, such as might and power either external or internal it would destroy our individuality. It is only by our cooperation and choice that we as individuals with our unique identity can be saved.

But what do you think of the idea of the children being brought to Christ for His intercessions? With whom was He interceding? What does this mean?

What are the intercessions of Jesus? Was Jesus pleading His blood to His Father on behalf of these little children? Was Jesus offering a legal payment to His Father to pay for these children's sin crimes? No! what was Jesus doing?

God intercedes in three places,

- As soon as Adam and Eve sinned God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit began interceding with the choices and consequences of Adam and Eve's choice. They put enmity between humanity and Satan. In other words, God began interceding in our hearts and minds to give us a longing for something better, to convict of sin, to make us dissatisfied with sin and break up our unity with Satan.
- God interceded in human history and with the principalities and powers of darkness to protect humanity and the avenue for the Messiah
- God interceded in the natural consequence of what sin would do to humanity by becoming sin for us in order to destroy death and bring life and immortality to light. In other words, Jesus opened an avenue for eternal life for all who trust Him, which was not available if God did not intercede into this situation.

So, what are Jesus' intercessions for the children? He is interceding in their lives, their hearts, minds, circumstances to provide His love, truth, and grace to lead them to trust so He can intercede in their inmost being and give them a new heart, right spirit, and eternal life.

The lesson quotes the following paragraph from the book *The Ministry of Healing*,

- Let not your un-Christlike character misrepresent Jesus. Do not keep the little ones away from Him by your coldness and harshness. Never give them cause to feel that heaven would not be a pleasant place to them if you were there. Do not speak of religion as something that children cannot understand, or act as if they were not expected to accept Christ in their childhood. Do not give them the false impression that the religion of Christ is a religion of gloom, and that in coming to the Saviour they must give up all that makes life joyful. (The Ministry of Healing 43).

Thoughts? What is the root cause of such unChristlike behavior in the church? Is it that the unfriendly are seeking to obstruct the little children, or are these people most often doing what they think is right? But how can they be so wrong?

Because they have accepted the imposed law lie and they themselves do not live in the love and peace of God, but in fear and their fear and insecurity causes them to be miserable human beings who need to control others to make themselves feel better.

TUESDAY

The lesson focuses our attention on the Rich Young Ruler, which is also recorded in Matthew 19 and Luke 18.

- A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18:18 NIV84).

The story begins with the young man addressing Jesus as though Jesus were no different than any other Bible teacher, Rabbi, or theology professor. He does not acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior, God in human form.

And upon what is the young man’s primary focus, the central issue of his concern? On self, on securing for himself eternal life. He did not ask Jesus, “What must I do to bring honor to God?” Or “What must I do to fulfill God’s purpose for my life?” Or “How can I serve God most fully?” Or “How can I know God’s will for my life?”

How much of church tradition encourages this same self-centered focus? How much evangelism suggests that the gospel message is primarily about individual salvation? Certainly, Jesus came to save sinners—absolutely true—

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NIV84).

But the more important question in this wonderful promise is: What does it say about God that He would sacrifice Himself to save us? It is certainly good news that we can be saved from sin, but isn’t the better news that God is love? After all, who would want to live forever with God if God was like Satan in character?

We are called to bring sinners to Christ for salvation. But is it possible that if Christianity takes the primary focus off of God and His character of love and places it on ourselves, it can become something selfish—something that burdens people, because it becomes about what they must do, focuses on their behavior, with the do’s and don’ts of various lists of rules that all work to keep self at the center, preoccupied with a fear of sinning, ruminating on the memories of our past sins, and suffering with chronic guilt and shame and worries of not being good enough? And might we find that we end up like this young man, going to Jesus and saying, “What else must I do to be saved?”

Notice how Jesus responds:

- “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone (Luke 18:19 NIV84).

- “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments” (Matthew 19:17 NIV84).

Jesus does several things here. First, by pointing out that only God is good and asking why the young man called Him good, Jesus is seeking to help the man realize that Jesus is God in human form. But Jesus is also saying, *“If you don’t recognize me as God, if you recognize me only as a teacher, then why are you calling me good—all goodness comes from God. Don’t fall into the trap of attributing to human teachers or church leaders the admiration, respect, and trust that belong only to God.”*

Jesus then turns the attention to the path of life, which is living in harmony with God’s law, for God’s law—of health, physics, and morality—is the protocol upon which life is constructed to operate. Life and health are only possible as one lives in harmony with the laws of health, and Jesus is trying to help this young man realize that by first drawing his attention to the commandments and then expanding their meaning to something far beyond rule-keeping. But the young ruler doesn’t appear to comprehend.

- “Which ones?” the man inquired.

Jesus replied, “‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” (Matthew 19:18–20 NIV84).

Here Jesus recites some of the Ten Commandments but then adds the meaning “love your neighbor as yourself.” Love honors others; love doesn’t seek to harm, exploit, or take advantage of others. Therefore, love doesn’t murder, cheat, bear false witness, or steal; love doesn’t even have the desire in the heart to harm; thus, love doesn’t covet. Jesus is saying, *“If you want to have life, you must be restored to my kingdom of love, and then you will keep the commandments.”*

Jesus was not reciting a list of rules for a legal religion; instead, He was describing what people look like when love is restored in the heart. Jesus is revealing that the commandments are not legal; they are not a code of conduct to be legally enforced; they are a description of how love functions and how people who love others live.

When we have God’s love restored into our hearts, we affirmatively *do not* commit adultery, steal, murder, bear false witness, or covet *because* we love others and it would be disgusting and repulsive to do such things. Just consider how repulsive even the mere thought of abusing your child is. Those who are like Christ would rather die than harm those they love. This is what Jesus is describing—people who love simply *do not* do these things to others.

But notice that the young man did not respond with, “I have loved like this my entire life.” Instead, he responded by focusing on rule-keeping without regard to a heart renewed to love, merely a legal

performance of external behavior. Yet, he realized that such a legal performance lacked something, so he asked Jesus what was missing from his life.

All those who have a legal religion also experience the same lack of inner peace, and what kind of people do they become if they don't experience God's love transforming their heart? Pharisaical, legalists, judgmental, critical, controlling of others, imperial—just like those religious people who crucified Jesus.

So...

- Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me” (Matthew 19:21 NIV84).

Jesus is not setting up a new rule here to be obeyed if we want treasure in heaven. He is accurately pointing out to this young man that the man valued his riches and trusted in material things more than he loved and trusted Jesus. He trusted his wealth in part because it was taught that wealth was evidence of being right with God, while poverty meant one was cursed by God. But eternal life cannot be found in earthly wealth, power, position, or status—only in surrendering the heart fully to Christ.

- When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth (Matthew 19:22 NIV84).

Why did the young man leave sorrowful? Because he placed his security in earthly treasure rather than in Jesus. Contrast this man's response with that of Zacchaeus:

- But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:8–10 NIV84).

Zacchaeus found something he valued more than money, and he suddenly found joy in using his money to help others. Sadly, the rich young ruler did not.

WEDNESDAY

What do you think of James and John asking to sit on the right and left side of Jesus?

Jesus asks if they can drink His cup and be baptized with His baptism and they say they can, and they do sufferer in a similar manner, yet the lesson points out,

- But James and John do not see it. They glibly reply that they are able. Jesus then prophesies that indeed they will drink His cup and be baptized with His baptism. James was the first of the apostles to die a martyr's death (Acts 12:2). John lived the longest of all the apostles and was exiled to Patmos (Rev. 1:9). But Jesus indicates that places in glory are set by God. (Adult SS Guide 3rd Q 2024, The Book of Mark p. 68).

Does this sound right?

What about the last sentence "But Jesus indicates that places in glory are set by God"?

Let's read Mark and Matthew's account:

- "but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." (Mark 10:40 NIV84).
- Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." (Matthew 20:23 NIV84).

Is being prepared for them the same thing as being set by God?

Consider the SDA Bible commentary on this:

- "In the kingdom of heaven position is not awarded on the basis of influence or favoritism, nor can it be earned. It is awarded exclusively on the basis of fitness, and fitness is measured by the spirit of service for others. It is overcomers who will be invited to sit with Christ on His throne (see Additional Note on Rev. 3:21)." (The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, Vol. 5, pp. 465–466).

Is the fitness of a person determined by God? Is the fitness of a person determined by their choice to cooperate with God and fulfill God's purposes and calling? Is the fitness of a person being the determining factor the same as God determining who sits where?

Do you notice the subtle, yet distorted, way the lesson introduces the lie that God's kingdom is authoritarian, that God's kingdom runs on rules made up by God? Such statements are not made purposely. I am sure the authors did not calculate to do this, but from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks; we become like the God we admire and worship, and when a person rejects the truth of God's design law, embraces and chooses to believe God's law functions like human law, imposed rules, they worship a dictator god and they become like that god and will interpret, speak, and write things consistent with that view, all the while believing themselves to be presenting truth. This is what the legalistic religious leaders did in Christ's day and this is why all but the very elect will be deceived in the end.

THURSDAY

The lesson is about the blind man calling out to Jesus despite the crowd trying to silence him, and Jesus asking him, what do you want me to do for you?

The lesson asks if you have ever called out like this to Jesus? And if so, what was the result?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW PODCAST LAUNCH JULY 23—Designed4More: We are excited to announce the launch of our new podcast, Designed 4 More—which is a joint effort of Come and Reason Ministries and Honey Lake Clinic. Our first show will be released Tuesday July 23, and we will release a new show every Tuesday thereafter. The focus is God’s design for the four domains of our lives, body, mind, spirit, and relationships and how we can only thrive in harmony with His design laws for life. We will explore a wide variety of topics and subjects, physical, mental, spiritual, relational, organizational etc. all seeking to understand how to apply God’s designs to our real-world, real-life decisions and actions. If you have topics or questions you would like to see a show on, you can email your question or topic to questions@designed4more.net



REVISÉD SABBATH SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

Date	Speaker	In Person/ Remote	Potluck
September 14	Stanley Baldwin	In Person	No
September 21	Dr. Jennings	In Person	Yes
October 12	Linda Ojala	In Person	No
October 19	Dr. Jennings	In Person	Yes
November 2	Russell Atkins	In Person	No
November 9	Lori Atkins	In Person	Yes
November 16	Dr. Jennings	Remote	No