

Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #6 - Understanding Study Questions for Groups & Individuals

Reread prayerfully Luke 10:25-28 again as a group. Have someone read it slowly a few times in a prayerful posture. Pick out words or phrases which are a challenge, or an encouragement to you. Discuss your thoughts together.

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your strength & with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this & you will live."

How much do you have to 'know' to love God like this?

What does it mean to love God in this way?

What are the obstacles or challenges?

How has loving God led you to be more loving of people?

In CS Lewis's, *the Screwtape Letters*, Screwtape writes these two things to his nephew Wormwood who is charged with keeping his 'mortal' from finding Christ...

(1) *"Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts,..."*

(2) He also writes, *"It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out."*

What is your reaction to these statements? Do they seem to be true of you? What has been your experience with these things?

Read Romans 8:5-9...

"Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life & peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you,"

What is the 'flesh'? And what is the 'Spirit'?

How is the mind 'governed by the Spirit', and what does it lead to?

Where you able to take a spiritual inventory of yourself in reference to the six aspects of Human Nature below? Is there anything you can share with others? Even if it means breaking up in pairs to pray together? Or maybe choose one which isn't too personal for you to share with the group & discuss?

1. **Thought** (images, concepts, judgments, reasoning & conclusions we make)
 1. What do my thoughts center around & where do they naturally go?
 2. Are they worthy of Christ, do they honor yourself & others as God's creation?
2. **Feeling** (sensation, emotion)
 1. Which feelings identify or govern my life most? Why?
 2. Are they positive uplifting healthy feelings?
3. **Choice** (will, decision, character)
 1. Is my will easily swayed, are my choices healthy?
 2. Do my choices reveal strong Christ-like character?
 3. How can I make better choices?
4. **Body** (action, interaction with the physical world)
 1. Are the members of my body used in ways which are unhealthy, or sinful?
 2. What are my involuntary bodily responses? (not looking others in the eye, wandering eye, salivating at unhealthy things)
 3. And what do they reveal about my heart?
5. **Social context** (personal & structural relations to others)
 1. How are my relationships?
 2. Am I influencing & moving others towards Christ?
 3. Who are my influencers?
 4. Who do I follow?
 5. And should I be?
 6. Am I making things better in the social contexts I live within?
6. **Soul** (the factor that integrates all of the above to form one life)
 1. Overall how's my soul?
 2. Do I feel at peace, content, fulfilled, living with purpose?
 3. Am I restless?