

## Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #14 - Ideas & Images

### Study Questions for Groups & Individuals

#### OPENER:

Did everyone read *My Heart, Christ's Home?* Thoughts?

Paper Airplane (**BRING COPY PAPER, yes, again :**)

1. Everyone makes a paper airplane - unlike last week, **DO NOT write your name**, but rather, write one strange fact or funny thing about yourself, or an experience you've had - something no one else might know about you.
2. On cue, everyone throws their airplane around the room, picks up others' airplanes, and keeps throwing them.
3. The leader says stop after one or two minutes.
4. Everyone must have one paper airplane.
5. They must then read the fact on the plane and guess as to who it is.

#### OPENINGPRAYER:

Let's pray for our women's team going to the Middle East, and any other pressing items in church life, or an individuals life.

#### DISCUSSION:

Read the account of the Fall in Genesis 3:1-13 - remembering the final result was humanity believed the lie, *'God could not be trusted any longer, and that they could choose how they should live.'*

1. What do you notice? What sticks out to you?
2. Discuss how easy it is to be deceived. And how have you experienced someone trying to deceive you?
3. Think about a time someone implanted a thought or idea in you which was harmful or disturbing to your life. How did it affect you?
4. Think about a time when falsehoods people have believed about each other have broken down relationships, can you share details discreetly? What was the affect on the relationships?
5. Do you ever feel like Adam & Eve with God when they said they were afraid & naked so they hid?
  1. How do we come out of hiding & trust God once more.
  2. How important is it to us to do so?
  3. What faulty images or ideas of God do you or have you held in the past?
  4. How have those held you back or been detrimental. `
6. Notice & discuss how the Fall struck right at our idea or image of who or what God is in relationship to us...
  1. What did that automatically produce in humanity?
  2. Discuss how the fall is really all about our connection to God in relationship.
7. We said our thoughts are *all the ways in which we are conscious of things*. And that we have freedom of thought, but we're not as free as we think we are
  1. Discuss how systematic ideas, culture, history, events, voices, etc., in life form and shape our thoughts even without our knowing it.

2. What are some of the avenues of thought which we feed ourselves with willingly?
3. Discuss how some of the examples of ideas have morphed & changed in our lifetime alone. Ideas such as...freedom, education, happiness, 'the American Dream', science, progress, death, home, feminine & masculine roles, Christian, Muslim, church, democracy, fairness, justice, family, evolution, God, the secular, etc.
  1. At the risk of starting fights :) are these changes good? Going towards Divine ethic or are they driving us farther from God and each other?
  2. How do you see people getting stuck in ideas and not be able to think well or differently to move forward in life?
4. The EXTREMELY handsome speaker this past Sunday said, *"Ideas of safety, justice, true systematic, societal or individual change, or healthy morality can't be implemented & achieved through any political system, our outside organizational control. Those systems only run as well as the character of the people within them. The worlds recourse is only coercion & control. Scripture teaches those concepts are only achieved through the implementation of the gospel on the hearts of people, the kingdom reign of God within people. Internal change - replacing the idea Satan injected in Adam, with the true image of God as found in Christ via the Scriptural story. That & that alone will make for healthy systems."*
  1. What are your feelings about this statement?
  2. How do we practice Matthew 6:33 - <sup>33</sup> *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
  3. How do we not get derailed into using the worlds tactics of how we think change occurs?
    1. Look through the following verses as discussion help: Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 15:13, Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 1:13, Philippians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 10:2-5, and Ephesians 5:18
5. What did you think of AW Tozer's quote on p4 of the sermon?
6. What did you think of Henri Nouwen's quote on p5?
7. If there is time, read through Colossians 3:1-17 & discuss the differences in the Old & New Self, what do their thoughts center on? Do you practice the thoughts of the New Self?