

3M MENTORING

Level Two: Miracles

Session Six: Root of All Evil

A. THE WORD: (KNOWING THE TRUTH):

Key Scriptures: *Josh 1:16; 1 Sam. 15:23; Rom. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; James 3:13-18; 2 Pet. 2:10.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) In James 3:16 we read, “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” The fact is that envy and _____ is the root of all evil, the matrix from which all sin and wickedness emerge. There is no greater example of presumptuousness as when a man or a woman, a mere creature, asserts his will against the will of his Creator. Self-willed people are in fact idolaters. They idolise *their* desires and plans above God’s! 1 Samuel 15:23 states this clearly: “...and stubbornness [is] as bad as worshiping idols” (New Living Translation). In the Lord’s evaluation, when selfish ambition is driving our lives we are engaged in the most blatant forms of self-veneration.
- 2) The antithesis of self-will is meekness. In verse 13 of James chapter three we see this. “Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the *meekness* of wisdom.” The word translated “meekness” speaks of “strength under control.” It is used to describe a horse that has been broken and trained to submit to a bit and bridle and no longer balks against its’ master’s will. For the Christian, it speaks of a well-tempered individual that is completely submitted to Christ’s Lordship and has yielded his will unquestionably and unreservedly to God’s.
- 3) What was Jesus meaning in Matthew 11:29 when He spoke of taking up His yoke? _____
_____.
- 4) **Aleister Crowley**, (12 October, 1875 – 1 December, 1947) was an influential English occultist and believed by many to be the founder of modern day Satanism. He wrote, *Book of the Law* in 1904 in which he stated, “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.” This statement became known as the *Wiccan Rede*. In other words, the principle for governing our lives should be, “*do whatever you want to do.*” Later on, Gerald Gardner (1884-1964) generally regarded as the founder of modern witchcraft wrote in his book, *The Meaning of Witchcraft*, “*Do what you like so long as you harm no one.*” How is our modern day culture driven almost entirely by the principle of the *Wiccan Rede*? _____

5) Read Romans 2:8-9; 2 Peter 2:10; Titus 1:7. What do these scriptures say about self-willed people? _____

6) Jesus lived solely for the will of His Father in Heaven (See Jn 4:34; 6:38). In fact, the reason why He walked in such authority was because of His complete submission to the requirements of Father God (Cf. John 11:41-42; John 8:29). What can we expect when our lives are yielded to the Father's will? _____

7) Envy is the opposite of love (1 Cor 13:4). It is oriented to this personal comparative aspect: *I am envious when I dislike someone because he or she has what I want but lack in some comparative way.* Richard Ostella states the following in *Love is Contrary To Envy*. "Many evil practices arise out of envy as it is an internal attitude that underlies many external evil acts. In Galatians 5:26 envying is associated with provoking. Envying and provoking are acts of the sinful nature (5:19) along with things like enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, and divisions (5:20). Envy lies behind enmity or malice and it drives strife, quarreling, angry fits, and dissension. And Paul gives a very pointed warning to the effect that "those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (5:21).

1) Is envy ever good? _____

2) *Why do people struggle with envy?* _____

3) *What safeguards can we establish in our lives to protect us from falling into envy?* _____

B. THE WALK: (PERSONAL APPLICATION):

8) How has self-will and envy held you back at times from being the person God wants you to be? _____

9) *Write down several things you will intentionally do to overcome self-will and envy in your life?* _____

C. THE WORK: (LIVING OUT LOUD):

1. Read, *Hosting the Presence*, chapters 3 & 4.

2. Read one of the biographies in *God's Generals* and work on your biographical report.

3. Keep a record of your daily scripture reading for this month.