

Changing the Way You Think (2)

“Search Me Oh God...For Any Hurtful Way in Me”

Even the Disciples That Walked Most Closely With Jesus Were Often Blind to Their Own Disease of Self

- When James and John ask for special treatment and all the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest... **(Mark 10:35-41)**
- When they want to torch a Samaritan village for being disrespected... **(Luke 9:54-55)**
 - *“You know not what manner of spirit you are of...”*
- Or when Peter brags that his loyalty to Jesus is more true than any of the others...later that very night he denies that he even knows Jesus... **(Matthew 26:33-34)**

Mark 10:17-22

¹⁷ As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. ¹⁹ But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ “Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

²¹ Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. **“There is still one thing...he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”** ²² At this **the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.**

“There is Still One Thing...”

• Examine Myself?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you...

Matthew 7:3-5

Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, **but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?** ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and look, the log is in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye!

- We can see what’s wrong with the rest of the world...
- But what about looking inward?
 - Even those of you who feel “Pastor - I’m always looking inward! Guilt, Shame...!!!”
 - Do you dare to dig deeper – looking for the lies beneath those layers and layers of Guilt, Shame, and Fear?
 - Self has so many clever disguises.

- **It's Still, Not Enough...**

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

It matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. **I don't even trust my own judgment on this point.** ⁴ **My conscience is clear, but that doesn't prove I'm right.** It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.

⁵ **So don't make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For he will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives.** Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due.

- **Only Our Patient and Gentle LORD Can See Deep Enough Inside of Each of Us**

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even **penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.** And there is **no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him** to whom we must answer.

- **He Understands, and Will Gently Remove the Cancer of Self...If We Let Him**

4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who cannot **sympathize with our weaknesses**, but One who has been tempted in all things just as *we are*, yet without sin. Therefore let's **approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.**

**“LET GOD TRANSFORM YOU INTO A NEW PERSON
BY CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK!”**

Romans 12:2

WILL you pray along with David and I this year...

Search me, God, and know my heart;
Put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there is *any* hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 139:23-24