



INSTRUMENTS IN THE REDEEMER'S HANDS

Lesson 1 – Do we really need help?

Concepts and Objectives

- Concept: Our need for help is not the result of the Fall, but the result of being human.
- Personalized: I need truth from outside myself to make sense of life.
- Related to others: I need to learn how to be one of God's instruments of change in the lives of others.

Lesson Content

1 – A Firm Foundation

- Discussion Question: If you were asked to write down a distinctly biblical definition of discipleship or personal ministry, what would you write?
- Key concept: “personal transformation takes place as our hearts are changed and our minds are renewed by the Holy Spirit.”
- The Spirit uses the Word of God to change us (Isaiah 55:10-13).
- The Spirit uses the people of God to help us (Ephesians 4:11-16).

2 – Our Need as Seen in Creation (Genesis 1:26-28).

- Key concept: God created us to need help outside of ourselves: God's truth.
- Adam and Eve were distinct from creation:
 - They were created by God to be revelation receivers.
 - They were created by God to be interpreters.
 - They were created by God to be worshippers.

3 – Our Need as Seen in the Fall (Genesis 3:1-7).

- Key concept: We need God's truth to give clarity in the various opinions around us.

- Thoughts, talk, opinions, advice, and relationships are always agenda setting. They are either steering us toward God and His truth, or away from God and His truth.
- That means advice is always moral.
- We live in a world of much confusion where literally thousands of voices speak to us at the same time, each interpreting life and competing for our hearts.
- We need Scripture to cut through the confusion.

4 – Our Need as Seen in Redemption (Hebrews 3:12-13).

- Key concept: We all suffer from spiritual blindness. We are deceived by our own sin.
- Notice the steps of falling away:
 - Sinful
 - Unbelieving
 - Turning away
 - Hardened
- Two qualities each of us needs:
 - The courage of honesty.
 - The humility of approachability.

5 – Three Questions that Everyone Asks

- Why do people do the things they do? We need a biblical theology of human motivation.
- How does lasting change take place? We need a biblical theology of change.
- How can I be an instrument of change? We need a biblical methodology of change.

The Big Question: Why do I need help?

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Concepts

1. To be human is to need help outside of myself.
2. Influence always carries a moral agenda.
3. Everyone suffers from some degree of spiritual blindness.

Personalized

1. I need to receive truth outside of myself to make sense out of life.
2. I need to humbly examine why I do and say the things I do.
3. I need to recognize sin's deceitfulness and commit myself to being approachable.

Related to Others

1. I need to learn how to be one of God's instruments of change in the lives of others.
2. I need to saturate myself with Scripture so that my interpretations and counsel to others are based on God's Word.
3. I need to recognize how I am influencing others in the relationships and situations of daily life.

Make It Real

1. How will the truths of this lesson shape your prayers about ministry opportunities?

2. Tell about a time in your life when you responded not to the facts of a situation but to your interpretation of the facts. Did you realize it at the time?

3. Describe a time when the Lord used a person or the Word of God to reveal your spiritual blindness. What did you learn about your need for such help? If you were helped by a person, what did he or she do to make it a positive or negative experience?

4. What things keep you from being approachable (being helped)? What things keep you from reaching out (helping)? Ask the Lord to help you in these areas and repent where appropriate.