

LEARNING TO THINK AS GOD THINKS

Mark 9:30-10:31

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Everyone is born with a human nature, which is called the “old sin nature” which equips a person to live in the world as everyone else lives. However when a person believes in Jesus Christ and is “born again” he/she is given an entirely “new nature.” That new nature equips the believer to be able to live in the spiritual world of God. To live in the spiritual realm one must learn how to think differently from the human nature way of thinking and that would be to think as God thinks. Therefore believers have to learn how to think as God thinks and one of the first things is to put aside one’s personal interests which have always been given first place.

I. BELIEVERS MUST LEARN TO PLACE OTHERS AHEAD OF THEMSELVES

1. *Mark 9:30-37*

2. Jesus told His disciples a bout His being betrayed and would eventually be put to death.
 - The disciples began to discuss, even argue among themselves as to who would have which position of authority, who was the most important among themselves.
 - They disciples just didn't begin to understand what Jesus was talking about as they thought Jesus was about to bring in His long awaited for Kingdom.
 - They were only thinking about themselves.
3. Jesus used children to make His point:
 - Children were not mature, they were not full grown, they were dependent, they had no power, they had no status.
 - Children were in a sense helpless and they recognized their need for help.
 - Jesus was showing His disciples that "greatness" in the Kingdom of God is having a servant's heart, voluntarily taking last place, recognizing one's need for help/
3. Following Jesus and denying one's self involves becoming insignificant in the Kingdom of God.
4. Thinking like God means to place others first, even ahead of one's own family.
 - What is your area of insignificance?
 - Do you worry about what others think about you?
 - Do you do things for others that nobody knows about? Things that come before your own needs?

II. THINKING LIKE GOD INVOLVES CHOOSING SACRIFICE OVER SELFISHNESS

1. *Mark 9:38-10:12*

2. John was upset because someone other than the disciples was also performing great things in Jesus' name.
 - John was jealous and selfish because someone other than their own "select" group was doing great things.
3. Jesus points out that whatever causes a person to stumble, to sin, to be unable to be of service to others, it needs to be removed, no matter what the cost.
 - "Selfless" living is what God wants of His Children, putting others first is a priority.

- Being a part of the Kingdom of God is more important than anything a person might want to place before it.
4. Jesus was asked about what was legal divorce.
 - He pointed out that divorce was a selfish act for God intends for a man and woman who have been married are to live their lives together as long as they both live.
 - Churches often offer seminars on "After divorce," "Being step-parents," "Single moms," "Divorce care," etc. Not many offer seminars on "Preventing Divorce," "How to have a successful marriage," etc.
 - Emphasis is placed on recovery from Divorce, but little emphasis is placed on "Preventing Divorce."
 - Sadly the divorce rate among Christians is about the same as with non-Christians.
 - Where is sacrifice, where is thinking of others first, where is selflessness in those marriages that end in divorce?
 - The main reason people give for divorce is that they just can't get along - irreconcilable differences.
 - What about the children? Is divorce good for them? Do divorcing parents even consider the effect on their children?
 - Divorce occurs because the couple is not listening to God and therefore not putting each other ahead of him/herself.

III. THINKING LIKE GOD IS CHOOSING DEPENDENCE OVER SELF-RELIANCE

1. *Mark 10:13-31*
2. Jesus points out that thinking like God is to be like little children.
 - Little children are dependent and helpless.
 - The Kingdom of God belongs to those who depend on God rather than being self-reliant.
 - Nobody can do everything, anything he/she sets his/her mind on doing.
 - Nobody has limitless abilities or potential.
 - Sooner or later everybody needs help.
3. There are some things that just cannot be done alone.
 - "I can't do it without you, Lord!" are the most beautiful and sensible words a person can utter.
 - How often have YOU said those words to the Lord?
 - Only through God's help can you "do all things."
 - With God, all things are possible.

CONCLUSION:

1. To think like God is to place others ahead of one's self.
2. To think like God is choose sacrifice for others over selfishness.
3. To think like God is choosing dependence over self-reliance.