

NEW LIFE FREEDOM

Lesson 2



We've begun to see that our lives have been based on systems of damage control. They keep the pain at bay while we conduct our daily lives. Pride has helped us in our ability to keep things going, but this pride is misplaced. Proverbs 29:23 says, "A man's pride and sense of self-importance will bring him down. But he who has a humble spirit will obtain honor." It takes humility to admit we're only giving the appearance of having a healthy, successful life. We started believing things about ourselves because of actions we took or those taken by others. We allowed other people to define who we are and what worth we had in the world. We lost sight of how God sees us and accepted the world's view as the only truth.

This distorted view is fed by guilt, shame, rejection, and condemnation. Our enemy wants to keep this going by stealing our hope that things could ever be different. He constantly reminds us of our failures and how we can never live up to any of God's expectations. He wants to blot out anything good in our lives. Jesus describes him as a thief and tells us in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

How will we ever make sense out of all of this information? We begin by listening to Jesus in Luke 12:2: "But there is nothing so carefully concealed that it will not be revealed, nor so hidden that it will not be made known." This may not sound comforting at first, because our real fear is having our sin and damage exposed for the world to see. There are lots of forces at work to keep things hidden. When Jesus talks about exposure, he means these things will lose their power over us when they come out in the light. There's a saying that tells us we're only as sick as our secrets. These are covered by His blood given freely to set us free.

Satan wants to keep us stuck in regret, reliving our failures and those of the people we trusted. He tells us there's only one way to look at all of this wreckage - a hopeless mess. This is where God wants to come in and take us on a different path. He has the power to overcome and transform what has been done.

This is what God really wants - a relationship with us. Not like the kind of relationships we usually have. He wants us to be free to come honestly to Him no matter how we're feeling. We don't have to cover anything up or pretend everything is great when it's not. He wants us to confess our weaknesses, but He also wants to celebrate our victories. He wants us to be fearless in bringing all of our thoughts into the open, never doubting that He will always love us. When we're quiet and open to His presence, He'll help us see things from His perspective. He wants to take those ideas which have been twisted and restore them so we can be released from confusion and misinformation that keep us separated from Him. Then we can fully trust Him to lead us through this process to freedom.

SCRIPTURES FOR FURTHER READING:

Proverbs 29:23, Psalm 40:12, John 10:10, Luke 12:2, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 8:38, 3:34



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