

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Change Your Mind - Week of April 7

Introduction

Is anyone like me and often stuck in old habits and routine? It's one thing to know the wise thing to do, yet quite another to actually live more wisely on a daily basis. We know we need exercise; we usually know the foods we *should* eat, but do we make those good choices to stay active and eat right when we've working all day and we are tired and famished. Discipline is hard. It takes resolve... a new mindset, planning. Working for more positive change in your life is not static, but dynamic... it's on-going. Most of us would all agree that to keep growing, we must keep learning. To improve a skill, we must practice. To form new habits, live healthier, get out of debt, or improve our relationships – we must be willing to change the way we think.

“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7a).

Background

Today's Scripture is found in Luke, chapter twelve. This chapter opens with these words:

Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—their hypocrisy. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear! Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, he's the one to fear” (Luke 12:1-5).

Difficult words. And yet, in light of eternity, Jesus makes us think: Why are we afraid of what others think? What are we whispering in the dark, harboring in our hearts? Why are we more afraid of people than God? Now understand, the Lord came to seek and save those who are lost (Luke 19:10). God doesn't want to kill anyone. For “God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:17). But God does hold our very lives in his hands. God's

Son will come again to judge the living and the dead. Scripture is clear: there is coming a day of judgment – when *all that is secret will be made known to all*.

Where is your heart these days? Are you thinking thoughts that you wouldn't mind being displayed on a billboard? Are you guarding against every kind of greed?

Read Luke 12:13-32

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Notice the Lord's parable follows a man making such a demand, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me.” Making demands of Jesus probably won't get us very far with our requests. What stands out to you in vv16-20? What is foolish according to Jesus in v21?

2. What are you going to do about it?

Notice Jesus addresses the disciples in vv22-23. Are you a disciple of the Lord Jesus? Imagine Jesus turning to you and saying: “(your name). That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing.” How do you respond to the Lord? What do you need to share with the Lord? What do you need to confess to the Lord? How does your mind (your thinking) need to change?

3. How can we help you?

What stands out to you in vv29-31? What brings the Father happiness, according to v32? What is especially meaningful *to you* as you look/read more carefully v32?

In Closing

Read 1 Corinthians 2:7-16

The Lord doesn't want us to be worried. Jesus said, “Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me” (John 14:1). Think about it: worry reveals who (what) we ultimately worship. Will it be your job, position, ambition, vanity, money, material things of this world, family concerns, work problems – (you fill in the blank)? Many things vie for our mind's focus. Yet, the Lord wants us to keep our eyes

on Christ. Pray for one another. Close with a time of praise, confession, and petition. Ask the Lord to help you (and each of your fellow Life Group participants) to stop striving and start trusting.

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect (Romans 12:1-2).

Change Your Mind

Text: Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV), Luke 12:13-30, John 14: 1

PLAIN TRUTH

**Don't let your hearts be _____,
trust in _____ and trust in _____.**

**1. To move from _____ to peace _____
your _____.**

**2. Worry _____ ultimately who you
_____.**

**Power Point: When you _____ your options you
limit your _____.**

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

Apr. 7: Deuteronomy 31:1-32:27, Luke 12:8-34, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 12:21-23

Apr. 8: Deuteronomy 32:28-52, Luke 12:35-59, Psalm 78:56-64, Proverbs 12:24

Apr. 9: Deuteronomy 33:1-29, Luke 13:1-21, Psalm 78:65-72, Proverbs 12:25

Apr. 10: Deut. 34:1-Joshua 2:24, Luke 13:22-14:6, Psalm 79:1-13, Prov.12:26

Apr. 11: Joshua 3:1-4:24, Luke 14:7-35, Psalm 80:1-19, Proverbs 12:27-28

Apr. 12: Joshua 5:1-7:15, Luke 15:1-32, Psalm 81:1-16, Proverbs 13:1

Apr. 13: Joshua 7:16-9:2, Luke 16:1-18, Psalm 82:1-8, Proverbs 13:2-3

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