

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

- A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.
- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. If you want to add details to your notes, you'll find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. ([www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com](http://www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com)).
  - Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.
- B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

### III. PERSONALIZATION

A. Reconciling Differences: Study these principles this week. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to increase your appreciation for the forgiveness and reconciliation God has extended to you. Pray that He would transform your heart to be like His:

#### 1. Reason for Reconciliation

- Examine God's methods and reasons for reconciling you to Himself: 2 Cor 5:14-19  
The Voice-- The controlling force in our lives is the love of the Anointed One. And our confession is this: One died for all; therefore, all have died. <sup>15</sup> He died for us so that we will all live, not for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose from the dead. <sup>16</sup> *Because of all that God has done*, we now have a new perspective. We used to show regard for people based on worldly standards and interests. No longer. We used to think of the Anointed the same way. No longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is united with the Anointed One, that person is a new creation. The old life is gone—and see—a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> All of this is a *gift* from *our Creator* God, who has *pursued us and* brought us into a restored *and healthy* relationship with Him through the Anointed. And He has given us *the same mission*, the ministry of reconciliation, *to bring others back to Him*. <sup>19</sup> *It is central to our good news that* God was in the Anointed making things right between Himself and the world. This means He does not hold their sins against them. But it also means He charges us to proclaim the message that heals and restores our broken relationships *with God and each other*.
  - Meditate on the above Scripture this week—it is so rich with hope for us and our relationships! Take special note of these points:
    - God pursued us and desires relationship with us! (v. 18)
    - He does not hold our sins against us but forgives instead (v. 19)
    - He calls us to the possibilities of His Gospel promise “that heals and restores our broken relationships *with God and each other*” (v. 19)
  - Reconciliation, defined:
    - Vertical--the restoration of the favor of God to sinners that repent and put their trust in the expiatory death of Christ (Strong's)
    - Horizontal--adjustment of a difference, restoration to favor (Strong's); when former enemies agree to an amicable truce (dictionary.com)
  - Allender Quote: God's forgiveness of us is a passionate movement of strength and mercy toward us, the offenders. His bold strength is the force of His holiness, which will not rest until all sin is destroyed and His glory shines as the sun. His bold mercy constantly beckons us to destroy the cancer within us that limits our joy and vitality; simultaneously, He extends arms of mercy to receive us as we turn back to Him. He fully faces the damage we have done while offering us a taste of kindness intended to lead us to repentance and reconciliation.
  - Insights:
2. A Heart for Reconciliation: Consider and seek to cultivate the characteristics of a heart that desires reconciliation:
- a. I'm Forgiven!
    - Observe here one who has embraced the depth of having been forgiven: Luke 7:37-50 NIV—A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet

with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”<sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said.<sup>41</sup> “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.<sup>42</sup> Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.<sup>44</sup> Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.<sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.<sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.<sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”<sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

- When it comes to having an “I’m Forgiven” mindset, this passages shows us:
  - It’s easier for an overt sinner than a covert sinner or religious person (vv. 39, 43)
  - Greater appreciation for forgiveness fuels greater love (v. 47)
  - Jesus doesn’t mind reassuring us again and again that we are forgiven (vv. 47, 48)
- Andrew Murray Quote—“It is not enough to know that I once received forgiveness. My life in the love of God, my living communion with Jesus by faith--this makes the forgiveness of sin again always new and powerful. It is the joy and the life of my soul... The forgiveness of sins, received in living faith every day, is a bond which binds you to Jesus”
- Insight

#### b. I’m Wise and Wily

- It takes supernatural wisdom to hate the sin and love the sinner in such a way that transformation can come:
  - Matt 10:16-- “I am sending you out like sheep with wolves all around you. Be wise like snakes and gentle like doves.”
  - Rom 12:9-- Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
- God’s kindness is offered for the purpose of reconciliation and transformation: Rom 2:4 MSG-- God is kind, but he’s not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.
- Upside-down Kingdom methods are needed for accomplishing reconciliation: Rom 12:20-21 GNT-- “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink; for by doing this you will make them burn with shame.” Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good.
- Study the example of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 33:1-12.
- This week ask God for wisdom on what it looks like to show kindness in a specific relational difference. Be sure the motives are reconciliation & the other’s benefit.
- Insights:

c. I Desire Reconnection

- Even when we desire reconnection, working through conflict is a dreaded thing for most people. Consider the costs to each party:
  - The Offended— overlooking the offense, withholding judgment, cancelling the debt, doing the emotional work of keeping the heart pure and open
  - The Offender—to restore relationship, the offender must repent (changed mind, perspective, and direction)
- We're called to forgive no matter how often we're sinned against. But we cannot experience true, biblical reconciliation unless the offender repents: Luke 17:3-5 NAS-- Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him. The apostles said to the Lord, "increase our faith!"
- Biblical Ex: Mal 3:7-10 NIV-- Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty." But you ask, 'How are we to return?'<sup>8</sup> "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me." But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. <sup>10</sup> Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.
- Insights:

d. I Am Open to Newness

- Reconciliation leads us to new and different places in relationship: Lk 5:36-39-- Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one, otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was *taken* out of the new does not match the old. <sup>37</sup> And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. <sup>38</sup> But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. <sup>39</sup> And no one, having drunk old *wine*, immediately <sup>[1]</sup> desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'"
- Is 43:6 NAS-- "I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.'
- Insights:

B. Continue to grow in your relationship with God by applying these principles:

- Make God your secure foundation: Ps 118:8 TV--It is better to put your faith in the Eternal (God) *for your security* than to trust in people.
- At the beginning of your day, take a few minutes to connect with God: Proverbs 8:34 NAS-- Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts.
- Deepen your intimacy with God by rejoicing in Him. Take time each day to offer Him thanksgiving and praise.
- Maintain connection with God by applying "The Middle of the Page" listening exercise whenever you sense distance between you and Him: "Is there anything causing separation or disconnection between us right now, Lord?"
- Practice receiving a particular Fruit of the Spirit every time a negative thought or emotion comes. Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to be *to* you in that moment. Receive His provision. Then ask Him to be that same thing *through you* to the people and circumstances involved.

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