

*Compassionate  
Recovery*

**Lesson #6**

**THE GREAT JOURNEY OF INNER  
CHANGE & OUTER PURCHASE**



### PRINCIPLE #1

**CONSTRUCT** a biblically based perspective both of mankind in created perfection and the extensive damage from the Fall common to us all as evidenced in broken relationships with God, self and others.

### PRINCIPLE #2

**OPEN** ourselves up to admitting the truth that many of our past ways of dealing with life's pain and loss have been ineffective and if we keep dealing with life in these ways, the past will simply define our future.

### THE PLACE OF THE "HARD WAY" ATTITUDE

*Drawn from John Townsend's "The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in Doing Hard Things the Right Way"*

This is "the habit of doing what is best, rather than what is comfortable, to achieve a worthwhile outcome.

"...This habit focuses on doing whatever is best to reach the good goal, even if it is difficult, uncomfortable, takes longer, and requires more energy."

**"God originated the Hard Way, and he lives it.**

All through the Bible, he does the best thing, even if it is a difficult thing.

**He never avoids it.**

The best example of this is Jesus, who suffered and died for no other reason than his love for a world that didn't want him

*But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*

Isaiah 57:7

From [www.gotquestions.org/face-like-flint](http://www.gotquestions.org/face-like-flint):

**"Luke echoes this resolute image of Christ set on saving His people: 'When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem' (Luke 9:51, ESV).**

**"In Jerusalem Jesus would face arrest, torture, and agonizing death. With trust in God the Father to help and defend Him before His enemies, Jesus set off firmly and unflinchingly committed to finish His mission. There would be no backing out, and no enemy or accuser could deter Him from accomplishing His purpose. He had set His face like flint."**

Back to John Townsend's "The Entitlement Cure"

*"...Ultimately, the Hard Way is simply God's Way."  
"In healthy individuals, there is a gap, a space, between where they are and where they want to be. This gap is what creates and promotes a desire to change."*

*"Consider the person who has no gap. [He/she] thinks of [themselves] as perfect, ideal..."*

*"Men and women with this kind of attitude, I have found, usually have to experience difficult losses and relational conflicts before they wake up to the reality that we all have a gap, whether we are aware of it or not."*

### "THE PRESCRIPTION LOOKS LIKE THIS:

*To live the Hard Way, we must experience the gap between where you are and where you want to be. And we must come to believe that dealing with the gap is our problem and our responsibility."*

### BEYOND CHRISTIAN TO DISCIPLE

Drawn from "Heaven is in Session", John Ortberg

*"Jesus' Good News- His Gospel- is simply this: the Kingdom of God has now, through Jesus, become available for ordinary human beings to live in. It's here. Now. You can live in it if you want to.*

*Some people teach that the only real reason Jesus came to earth was to die on the cross. But death on the cross was only one part of His mission. His overall mission was to be the Kingdom bringer.*

**HIS ONE GOSPEL** was the gospel of the availability of the Kingdom.

**HIS ONE PURPOSE** was to model the reality of that Kingdom in his life, death and resurrection.

**HIS ONE COMMAND** was to pursue the Kingdom.

**HIS ONE PLAN** was for his people to extend the Kingdom."

### KINGDOM OPTIONS DEMONSTRATED

Luke 15:11-24 (Review Lesson #5)

1. A "THIS IS MY KINGDOM"
2. A "RELIGIOUS KINGDOM"
3. A "KINGDOM OF GOD"

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.'

1. Building a "THIS MY KINGDOM" begins when, independent of God, a person demands their own way of living life.

*So he divided his property between them.*

2. God may put up obstacles by His Word, conviction of the Holy Spirit, and thru godly caring others, but He

won't take away a **MY KINGDOM RULER'S** free will to choose the path they will follow in this life.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

**3. My Kingdom rulers set out to move away from where there is personal accountability and reinforcement of godly ways, only to gradually, progressively risk the squandering everything of value.**

<sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

**4. It may take a while, but in the end with all resources depleted, the MY KINGDOM RULER will experience deep need.**



<sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

**5. When a My Kingdom ruler discovers the gap between their hunger and their resources, their first instinct is often to reach out to those they had unhealthy relationships with only to find they have no interest in helping them or are simply in no position to help them because they are just as much in need of help as the MY KINGDOM RULER.**

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!' <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

**6. When MY KINGDOM RULERS take an honest and comprehensive assessment of their lives, it helps them "come to their senses" opening doors to begin to identify steps to take towards closing the gap between where they are and the godly well-being God has always had in mind for human beings.**

<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was

filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**7. Many times a MY KINGDOM RULER underestimates what can happen in their relationships with God, self, and others when they humble self and repent.**

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

**8. Restoration of a MY KINGDOM RULER begins with the humble experience of confession of sin, recognition of our unworthiness of God's mercy, leading to repentance.**

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

**9. A MY KINGDOM RULER needs to accept God's forgiveness and look to Him to help them clean up their mess.**

**10. A MY KINGDOM RULER needs to show thankfulness to God for His mercy, forgiveness, and patient love by committing to being faithful to His ways!!**

### THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM A RELIGIOUS KINGDOM RULER

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

<sup>29</sup> but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

- 1. We need to trust in the goodness of our good Father and not question His desire and wisdom to supply all of our needs.**
- 2. We need to not think "the more I am 'good' the more I should get."**
- 3. We need to be thankful that simply in faith walking God's ways protects us from unnecessary self-inflicted trouble.**

4. We need to rejoice and not be jealous when ***A MY KINGDOM RULER*** comes home, begins experiencing God's best.
5. ***RELIGIOUS KINGDOM RULERS*** need to "come to their senses", realize how empty their lives are when "being good" is just to get rewarded, confess the true heart condition, and choose to live to please the Father by obedient love and trust in His goodness.

**THE WORD "CHRISTIAN" - THE WORD DISCIPLE**  
**An Important Distinction**

It is important to remember the word Christian was probably originally derogatory, never used by Jesus, isn't used in the Gospels and only used 3 times in the Bible.

The word disciple occurs more than 260 times

**AFTER SALVATION**  
**MATURING AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS**  
*Drawn from John Ortberg's "Heaven is in Session"*

Salvation isn't so much about getting you into heaven as:

- Getting heaven into you.
- Transformation.
- What God wants to do ***in you***, not what God wants to do ***to you***.
- Allowing Jesus' Kingdom life to permeate our little lives one moment, one choice at a time. P. 33-34

Being saved always involves being both saved ***from*** something and saved ***for*** something.

Salvation doesn't mean simply being rescued from the consequences of our wrong choices. It doesn't mean being delivered into better circumstances.

**AT LEAST ONE WAY THIS WEEK I WILL TRY TO PUT THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE IS:**

It means being changed. Salvation isn't primarily a matter of going to the good place. It's about becoming good people. P.41

Jesus' Good News is that eternal life - life ***with*** God and ***for*** God, life ***under*** God's care and life ***by*** God's power - is available now. If you want that life, the logical step is to become a disciple - a student, an apprentice, a follower - of Jesus.

Simply put, discipleship is the means by which we learn to live the life that Jesus offers. Christianity was never intended to produce Christians. Just disciples. P.52

Apprentice is such a helpful word. An apprentice is someone who commits themselves to be with a master craftsman and to learn from them how to master the craft. The word for disciple in the New Testament was often used for trade apprenticeship. It's not a special church word for the spiritual elite. Anyone can do it. It's not about the skill of the apprentice; it's about the power of the Master.

[God] invites you, as a gracious gift, to become an agent of the Kingdom-to experience God's reign in your own life, body, and will and then to become a conduit of God's power, joy, and love to bruised and bleeding humanity all around you. ***p.19***

**ENABLED TO BE A FRUITFUL DISCIPLE**

We are enabled to live out faithful and fruitful discipleship leading to increasing Christlikeness through:

- ***A "Jesus-focused" commitment to orient us.***
- ***The Word of God to instruct us.***
- ***The Spirit of God to empower us.***
- ***The people of God to support us.***
- ***A loving Lord to be merciful with us.***

**Weekly Going Deeper Study Guide**  
**FOR THE GREAT JOURNEY OF INNER CHANGE & OUTER PURPOSE**

- Before beginning each day simply ask God to help you see things that He would have you to see.
- When finished, pray again asking for the faith and the courage to follow His lead in areas He speaks to you about.

**DAY 1:** 1. Without rushing, read through this week's lesson.  
1. Paraphrase in 2 or 3 sentences what in your mind is the main message you get out of this lesson.

**DAY 2:** 1. Carefully read and meditate on each of the scriptures in this week's lesson.  
2. Identify the one that stands out the most to you and rewrite it in your own words.

**DAY 3:** Pick out one verse or passage from this week's lesson (**How about the verse/passage from day #2**) that means the most to you or some other verse that comes to mind related to this week's lesson. Write it on a small card, and try to memorize it or at least read and meditate on it several times through the next days.

The verse(s) I chose: \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY 4:** 1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down any things you see that God would want you to avoid, change, or give up.

**DAY 5:** 1. Reread the lesson.  
2. Write down the most positive thing you see that you would really like to see become part of your life.

***HERE IS WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN GROUP AS TO HOW PUTTING THIS LESSON INTO PRACTICE WENT THIS WEEK:***