

Suspicious Minds: Week Three



January 22nd, 2023

Review:

- Our destiny lies in our strongest thoughts.
- This is a problem for us as human beings.

A problem humans have is that we have a broken sin nature, and we can't see reality.

- A. Our minds are broken in some way – sinful nature – accepting the truth about us.
- B. The culture is the culmination of broken and sinful thinking creating a way of life in a given area – the world designed to feed our perception of needs and wants.
- C. Remember we have a spiritual enemy.
- D. God is light – truth – He has given us truth via revelation, and we can't know the truth unless we have received that revelation, which is God's Word.

Last week – Replace and Rewire (**Colossians 3:1-11 ESV**)

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (ESV) ³ *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.* ⁴ *For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.* ⁵ *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*

This week: REFRAMING

- Think in terms of glasses. If you have the wrong lenses, you cannot see clearly.
- I am not talking about positive thinking as if your thoughts change the universe.

Romans 8:22-31 (NIV)

1. Have the right expectations. We **will** have to replace and rewire!
2. Notice: Even believers groan inwardly reflecting that something isn't as it should be.
3. Notice: We have the Holy Spirit who helps us in our weakness.
4. We know that God works out all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.
5. The enemy lies to us, and causes us to question God's presence, His forgiveness, and His call for our lives.

REFRAMING OUR PAST

- A. God has been working behind the scenes of our lives.
 - God foreknows who will follow Him and He works with that knowledge in mind as He deals with us before we knew Him.
 - There are consequences from our sin, but God works in our past to bring us to our present so that we can be saved and used for the ministry He has for us.
 - God is directing our lives by answering in ways we may not have chosen (*unanswered prayers, difficult situations, etc.*).
 - God is moving and shaping us for His work.
 - **Colossians 1:17 (NIV)** ¹⁷ *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*
- B. God knows us by name and has been shaping us for His work.
 - **Ephesians 2:8–10 (NIV)** ⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God* ⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.* ¹⁰ *For we are God's handiwork, (masterpiece) created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

PRE-FRAMING OUR FUTURE

- A. With this knowledge, I can go forward with confidence that the Lord knows my name and will be working in my life.
- **Romans 8:31–39 (NIV) Philippians 4:10–13 (NIV).**

THE CHALLENGE

1. Evaluate your thinking (what's natural to us doesn't seem like a lie).
2. Replace the ruts with trenches of truth.
3. Allow others to help remind you and build the trenches of truth in your life.

Small Group Discussion:

Scriptures to consider:

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 4:17-25; Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 3:12-14; Philippians 3.**

QUESTIONS:

Last week we talked about how easy it is to get stuck in our own spiritual “[Stockholm Syndrome](#).” We must stop the lies and rewire our brains with the truth of God's Word.

1. **What is something you own that you would like to replace and what would you replace it with?**
2. **Read [Philippians 3:12-16](#). Is there something behind you that you would like to forget? What is it?**
3. **What are some thoughts you would like to take captive? ([2 Corinthians 10:3-5](#)) What truth would you replace them with?**
4. **[Ephesians 4:17-25](#) tells us to put away falsehood and speak the truth with our neighbor. How are you using/allowing the body of Christ to help you replace your flawed thinking?**
5. **What is something true that you can encourage someone else with in your group ([Hebrews 3:12-14](#))?**

Homework

- Read [Philippians 4](#).
- Write a note or send a text of encouragement to someone in your **LIFE**group this week and pray for them.