



A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

LESSON 6

JOLYNN GOWER

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217/493-6151

JGOWER@GUARDINGTHETRUTH.ORG

WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- **James 1:21-22** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

- Doers: *poietai*: a performer; especially a poet

- Hearers: *akroatai*: those who listen without participation

- **LEARNING GOAL FOR THIS CLASS:**

Learning to hear God and respond to Him in such a way that His purposes can be fulfilled in us

We play an active role in the renewal of our minds

**Acknowledging personal responsibility
is key in the process**

GOD WORKS THROUGH US

- **Psalm 127:1** Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain.
- We labor, we guard; but only with God's oversight and direction will our work be profitable
- Vain: *shav*: empty, useless, worthless
- **Deuteronomy 8:15-17** "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'"

SO, HOW DOES THIS WORK?

- **Ecclesiastes 10:18** Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks.
- **1 Timothy 5:17** The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
- Good stewardship requires working together with God
- **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1. DOES GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY CANCEL OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ACT?

2. DOES OUR FAILURE TO ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY IMPACT THE SOVEREIGN PLAN OF GOD?

GOD'S PERFECT WILL or GOD'S ALLOWED WILL

FOR SUCH A TIME

- Haman was upset because Mordecai wouldn't bow to him and coerced King Ahasuerus into destroying the Jews
- **Esther 4:11-14** "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days." They related Esther's words to Mordecai. Then Mordecai told *them* to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty **for such a time as this?**" **473 BC**

GOOD LEADERSHIP

- **1 Chronicles 12:32** Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command.
- Times: *eth*: the circumstances they were in; the season
- Knowledge: *yada*: to have perception or discernment
- Chiefs: *rosh*: head; leaders
- **Acts 14:23** When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- Appointed: *cheirotoneo*: to vote by stretching out the hand
- **Hebrews 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- **Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.
- **Ephesians 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- Seal: *sphragizo*: to place as a private mark indicating ownership, security, or authenticity
- Seals were placed on deeds to prove ownership; only the rightful owner (or heir) could break the seal
- The same Spirit that seals us also reveals God's purpose for us and empowers us to do it
- **Acts 1:8** ...but you will receive power when the Holy

TRUE WISDOM

• **James 3:13-18** Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

• Wisdom: *sophia*: appropriately applied knowledge; wisdom combines hearing (understanding) and doing

• The seed (reproductive part) results in righteousness

• Peace: *eirene*: harmony rest: opposite of chaos/disorder

MORE ABOUT FRUIT

- **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit **is** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- Love: *agape*: action putting another's interest first
- Joy: *chara*: calm delight
- Peace: *eirene*: harmony; absence of chaos
- Patience: *makrothumia*: long-suffering; forbearance
- Kindness: *chrestotes*: useful goodness; morally upright
- Goodness: *agathosune*: knowledgeable goodness which, biblically, indicates that it comes from knowing God
- Faithfulness: *pistis*: strong, unwavering moral conviction
- Gentleness: *prautes*: humility; strength under control

CONFORMITY TO CHRIST

- **Romans 8:29-31** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?
- Conformed: *summorphos*: to be shaped together with
- **Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Image: *tselem*: shadow image made by light
- **Genesis 5:3** When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of *a son* in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

GOD'S REMEDY

- **Romans 10:9-10** ...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
- Salvation: *soteria*: deliverance; rescued morally or physically
- **Romans 11:32-33** For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all. Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!
- Mercy: *eleos*: not receiving deserved punishment
- Sending Jesus was God's gift of grace
- When we have received Jesus, God mercifully delivers us

BACK TO OUR VERSE

- **James 1:21-24** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was
- Delude: *paralogizomai*: reason falsely, miscalculate
- **Matthew 7:21-23** "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to