

THE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHURCH (ABC)

LESSON 12

Luke 6:6-11

6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus. (KJV)

QUESTIONS

What is the symbolic significance of the sabbath day ?

Explain the man's medical condition.

Explain why a man is a legitimate symbol of the church.

Using the underlined words, explain the capacity and disability of the church pictured by this man.

But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand,

Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

What miracle is prefigured in the underlined words in vs. 10.

And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

It was the man's right hand that was withered. What is the significance of the right hand?

What is revealed by the Parisees and Scribes disapproval of the man's healing on the sabbath day?

The following is a list of damaged mindsets that need healing. Elaborate on each of these with scriptural support.

mystic mindset

illogical mindset

proud mindset

suspicious mindset

dependant mindset

religious mindset

ungrateful mindset

double-minded mindset

sentimental mindset

vindictive mindset

gullible mindset

introverted mindset

careless mindset

ANSWERS

LESSON 12 – DYSFUNCTIONAL CHURCH (ABC)

1. Sabbath means rest. It was the seventh day. The seventh day, amongst other things, prefigured the seventh millennium.

2 Pet 3:8

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (NKJ)

The sabbath was a sign of covenant between God and his people.

Exod 31:17

'It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.' (NKJ)

By keeping the sabbath Israel confessed that God finished the work. They planted but God would give the increase.

This seventh millennium is God's sabbath. It is in this sabbath that God's rest will be demonstrated. It is in this sabbath that God's perfect man, the true church(the redeemed son) after the image of Christ will be

manifested.

Rom 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. (NKJ)
The revelation of the sons of God will take place in this millenium.

Job 5:19

He shall deliver you in six troubles, yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. (NKJ)
The people of God passed through 6 millenia(6 troubles).
In the 7th there is a time coming when no evil will touch the perfected church.

The seventh day from Adam is equal to the third day from Christ.
Christ was resurrected on the third day.

Luke 9:22

saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." (NKJ)

The church which is following the footsteps of Christ has and will suffer many things before her resurrection on the 3rd /7th day.

Rom 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (NKJ)

Hosea 6:1-2

1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn, but He will heal us; he has stricken, but He will bind us up.
2 After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. (NKJ)

This is a prophetic declaration of the resurrection of the church on the third day, which is the seventh day from Adam – the sabbath.

THERE WILL BE NO RESURRECTION BEFORE PERFECTION.

THE PERFECT MAN MUST EMERGE ON THE 7TH DAY AS A MANIFESTATION OF OUR ENTRANCE INTO THE REST OF THE LORD.

The man's right hand was withered. He had monoplegia, the result of a stroke(brain attack).

3.

Eph 4:13

till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (NKJ)

The mature church is likened to a perfect man. Thus a diseased or anatomically dysfunctional man is a picture of a dysfunctional church.

RISE UP

The man was able to change his position. This is a church that is able to change its position. A certain level of flexibility is demonstrated.

STAND FORTH

The man was able to stand. This church is able to stand. The standing position represents a position of strength in warfare.

Eph 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (NKJ)

IN THE MIDST

Jesus asked the man to stand in the midst.

Matt 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (KJV)
The midst is His position.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY, THE SEVENTH MILLENIUM, JESUS IS PLACING THE CHURCH IN HIS POSITION.

As the church stands in this position of prominence, the disability is clearly seen. The church is unable to use its right hand. The church cannot function with full capacity because the right hand is withered. The hand is the symbol of the five-fold ministry. The man cannot use his hand. This is a church that does not have full five-fold expression.

Jesus asked the man to stretch forth his hand. However, the man's problem was not his hand. His problem was his brain. The fact that he could stretch his hand, meant that Jesus had healed his brain.

FOR THE CHURCH TO BE FULLY FUNCTIONAL, THE MIND HAS TO BE HEALED. THE HEALING OF THIS MAN PREFIGURES THE HEALING OF THE MINDSET OF THE CHURCH THAT HAS INHIBITED THE CHURCH FROM BEING FULLY FUNCTIONAL.

The right hand is a symbol of favour. The five-fold ministry is intended to bring favour and blessings.

The Pharisees and Scribes represent the religious spirit that is antagonistic to the church operating in the five-fold ministry.

DAMAGED MINDSETS

These are mental strongholds that exalt themselves above the knowledge of Christ.

MYSTIC MINDSET

The mystic mindset has the following characteristics:

Chanting

This is self hypnosis. It involves vain repetitions to work oneself into a frenzy.

Fear

This mindset functions in a climate of fear. Inspires fears in others and is itself lead by fear. It majors on issues of fear e.g. hell, antichrist, demons, warnings.

Mystery and obscurity

Delights in mystery and obscurity. Boasts privileged information and secrets, thus those with itchy ears are ensnared.

Unbiblical practices

Use of chemicals to fight spiritual warfare e.g. use of brooklax, oil, holy water and sheepdip to cast out demons.

Overdramatization

Frequent voice changes and flamboyant demonstrations.

Supernatural focus

They focus on signs, wonders and demons e.g. if no prostration occurs the people infer that God is not moving. They look for supernatural cause and solution to every problem and are lead by dreams and visions.

ILLOGICAL MINDSET

Illogicality has the following characteristics:

Irrational conclusions or beliefs.

Exod 13:16

"It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." (NKJ)

It was a fact that God brought the nation out of Egypt.

Exod 32:4

And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (NKJ)

The backslidden nation believes that the calf brought them out of Egypt.

Irrational accusations.

Matt 11:18-19

18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.'

19 "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children." (NKJ)

Irrational relationships.

2 Chr 17:1

Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. (NKJ)

2 Chr 18:1

Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab. (NKJ)

In Chapter 17 Jehoshaphat fortifies himself against evil king Ahab. In Chapter 18 he allies himself with the one he had been protecting himself from.

Irrational deeds.

e.g. Pilate proclaimed Jesus innocent yet ordered his scourging.

John 19:6

6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." (NKJ)

Matt 27:26

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified. (NKJ)
(Abigail's husband's refusal to help David. Judas betraying Jesus, although he had seen Jesus' power and majesty. Benjamites defending murderers and rapist - Judges19.)

PROUD MINDSET

A proud mindset is characterized by personal selfish ambition, reliance on self, inflated self-esteem, delusions of grandeur and entitlement.

e.g. Nebuchadnezzar

Dan 4:30

The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" (NKJ)

The Pharisee

Luke 18:11

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. (NKJ)

A person with a proud mindset would make a statement like this, "I don't follow man."

SUSPICIOUS MINDSET

This is a tendency to ascribe evil motives without proof.

e.g. Saul's suspicion of David.

1 Sam 18:7-9

7 So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward. (NKJ)

The Ammonite's unfounded suspicion of David's kindness.

2 Sam 10:3

And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?" (NKJ)

DEPENDANT MINDSET

This is characterized by the inability to function autonomously. In the Book of Judges, everytime a good judge died, the nation went into apostasy. When Moses went up to the mountain to commune with God the nation deteriorated to calf worship.

RELIGIOUS MINDSET

CHARACTERISTICS;

Superstition

Practices that are based on ignorant fear e.g. wearing of a pen knife around the neck to keep our demons. Inflexibility

Inability to adapt e.g. a fixed dress code that one adheres to and imposes on others.

Theoretical bondage

The inability to translate abstract doctrine into dynamic experience. These folk preach without practice.

Traditionalism

A practice that is passed from generation to generation by oral communication and has no biblical support e.g. sign of the cross.

UNGRATEFUL MINDSET

e.g. Laban was ungrateful to Jacob.

Gen 31:5-7

5 and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.

6 "And you know that with all my might I have served your father.

7 "Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. (NKJ)

Hezekiah did not demonstrate his gratitude to God after his healing.

Pharaoh's butler forgets Joseph

Gen 40:23

Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. (NKJ)

Luke 17:17

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? (NKJ)

DOUBLE-MINDED MINDSET

A person with this mindset has 2 masters, 2 cups and 2 tables.

Luke 16:13

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." (NKJ)

1 Cor 10:21

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. (NKJ)

II Ki 17:33

They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods-- according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away. (NKJ)

II Ki 17:41

So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day. (NKJ)

SENTIMENTAL MINDSET

Love is prized above truth.

EXAMPLES:

Jonathan loved David, but was loyal to Saul because of sentimental attachment.

Barnabas separated from Paul because of sentimental attachment to John Mark.

Eli failed to discipline his sons, thus honouring his sons more than God.

Samuel mourning for Saul.

1 Sam 16:1

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." (NKJ)

VINDICTIVE MINDSET

This is a mindset bent on revenge. This person is bound by unforgiveness and bitterness.Examples:

Absalom (2 Sam. 13:23-29)

Joab (2 Sam. 3:27)

GULLIBLE MINDSET

A person with this mindset believes everything. Has a total lack of discerning.

Micah employs a Levite without verifying his credentials – Judges 17 :10.

INTROVERTED MINDSET

A person with this mindset, hates social interaction, is non –confrontational and a person of few words.

They are dreamers who often do not share their problems with others.

CARELESS MINDSET

CHARACTERISTICS:

CROSSING BOUNDARIES OF EXPERTISE(e.g. Uzza)

ABSENCE OF PRIORITIES(Haggai 1:4)

RECKLESS SPEECH(Jephthah – Judges 11:30,31)

ENTANGLEMENT(ACTIVITY BASED) - (Gal. 5:1/2Pet.2:20)

LICENTIOUSNESS(e.g Samson)

EVIL COMPANY(Jehoshaphat and Ahab)

SLOPPY(Amasa – 2 Sam.20:4,5)

SLACKNESS(LAZINESS) (Josh.18:3)

