

Lesson 20 – Treatment 7

Tale of the Letters

Read the lesson below and answer the questions as they appear on a separate sheet of paper. Unless you know the person has committed a sexual offense, this lesson may not be one you wish to share with others.

Read the text from the following letter written from one of the men on our accepted list to his mentor.

Where to begin? Well first of all, I pray that this will find you well in health & spirit.

I am having such a hard time starting this letter. Yours both saddens & angers me. For one who wishes to initiate a mentor/mentee relationship, your style (for lack of a better word) sucks.

You don't know me, never met me, yet you speak about my reputation proceeding me, of a lifestyle (possible) of open sexual sin, the path of a reprobate mind, & your last sentence can only be taken as my salvation is questionable. Wow! What a wonderful way to start a friendship with one you don't know. Oh, and also that my Christian conduct is not honorable. All of this because you & possibly others choose to believe in what others say about me without any knowledge of who I am or what God means to me. You never once asked me if such & such is true. You never checked whether my reputation was true or the invention of angry/hateful people or person.

I thank God I am not like that. I am more like my Jesus. I do not believe rumors or gossip. I go to that person & ask if what is being said is true. And when told, I use a wonderful little gift of the Holy Spirit... discernment.

I really should not be surprised. Let me show you a little about me. I am mostly a solitary Christian. Yes, I have been saved (1-4-1999). I have a Bachelor's degree in Christian Education & I'm 12 hours away from a Master in Christian Counseling Psychology. I taught a Bible class (The 12 keys of a Mature Relationship) for 4 years. I centered each key, each lesson around the love of my Jesus. I don't go around spouting Scripture nor carrying a 12lb. Bible. My walk is to be seen & not heard & is personal between God & I. I am not a New Testament only Christian. I do the best I am able, thru the Holy Spirit using the whole Bible.

I am not gay even though because I have feminine characteristics. I am not a sexual person. I am not heterosexual nor homosexual. Sex doesn't do anything for me. Yes, at one time there was the female who introduced me to New Name, who worked to make me sexual. But she did that with several & married the first one out of here. She knew I had p.t.s.d. & that there were things that were triggers about her. Yet she showed off those triggers, cause an episode then would have me get in another room as she stood back to me & had me do self-sex. All this from a "Godly woman" in Joy Prison Ministry.

I better than most know of the temptations as I battle victoriously each day my p.t.s.d. With God's help, I have subdued it to a manageable place. Just because I am a feminine man of 50 does not mean I am gay. After being gang raped in jail, I detest any man's sexual advances. I do believe if I was gay or used females to masturbate it would be documented (by disciplinary) after 23 ½ years.

In closing, I ask that you don't presume gossip is true until after you get to know one. Yes, I can do the Ministries' program, that is, if they still allow a feminine Godly man in.

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1. What ungodly beliefs can you recognize in this letter?
2. What thinking errors do you see?
3. From this letter, do you get the impression that this man wants to change or even sees the need for change in his life?

When it was time for another mentor letter, his mentor was no longer at New Name and Chuck took over as his mentor. The following text is from that first letter.

It's that time again for another self-study lesson and mentoring letter. DJ is no longer with us so I will fill in at least for this one letter. The nearer you are to release, the better chance that I will be here to see you through it. I already have so many other letters to write just to get men through their application process, there is little time leftover with more writing. This is not meant to devalue you in any way. You are worth more honoring with communicating at least every 90 days as our mentoring program is set up. I may not do any better than that but I will commit to that schedule or pass on your name to someone who can. If you are being released within the next 6 months or so, I think I can make it.

I read both DJ's letter to you as well as your response to him. Remember, this is a process we are undergoing to observe both mentor and mentee. Copies of all quarterly letters are kept in your file so we can watch you grow before you come home as well as have something to review upon your arrival so we can determine how best to serve you.

I found DJ's letter quite appropriate. He asked questions. He did not make accusations. He offered you an opportunity to separate fact from fiction in regards to your reputation. Your response was one of victim stance and accusations of your own. You state that you do not believe rumors or gossip; that you go to that person and ask if what is being said is true. This is exactly what DJ did. It is odd that you are uncomfortable with someone following your advice.

I appreciate the fact that you wrote so much because it is out of the abundance of the heart that the lips (or pen in this case) speak. That is the wonder of group therapy and why it works so well because this neat little spiritual principle comes alive. No matter how many words we use to try to hide the truth, it just has to spill out.

To identify yourself as a feminine Godly man is in direct contradiction to the Scriptures and God's abundant plan for your life. To claim that you are not a sexual person also violates creation as God made man male and female. He made sex to be a wonderful expression of intimacy between a man and a woman in right relationship. This is God's order. Anything outside of this is disorder, deviant, and always unsatisfying. The Old Testament makes it very clear that men should not wear women's clothing nor should women wear men's clothing. I don't have degrees in Christian Education that have taught me to disregard the parts of Scripture that I may find disagreeable. It is all valuable even if I do not yet fully understand it.

You sent us a picture of you standing beside Paul Carlin. Did you present yourself to him as a feminine Godly man? Or did you hide this characteristic? If you did hide it, why? Just as with our sexual offenses, we hide our behaviors that we know are wrong.

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You mention an incident of masturbating in the presence of a “Godly woman.” It is interesting that you don’t own your own behavior. It was the woman’s fault or perhaps your p.t.s.d. You shift the blame for your own behavior to someone or something else. You will never have victory over inappropriate behavior until you own that behavior. When you accept responsibility and agree that it is wrong, then you are empowered to do something about it. I want you to live in victory.

You also mentioned that you are a solitary Christian. I can promise you that you will have a houseful of men who will be all in your business. We don’t do solitary here. It is unhealthy to isolate yourself. Being fully involved in the home, developing healthy relationships is at the root of your transformation.

Please understand that some of the stuff you express in your letter will not be tolerated at New Name Ministries. You can call us heartless, narrow-minded, or any number of things. We’ve been called worse. But we do stand on principle. As DJ wrote, if you struggle with issues that are contrary to the Word of God and you are open and honest about these struggles, we will struggle with you, hold you accountable, and celebrate your victories. If you are at peace with issues that are contrary to the Word of God, your short time at New Name will be miserable.

After all of this, if New Name doesn’t sound like it is for you, please let me know and I will refund the money that was sent on your behalf for your initial funding. If New Name sounds like the place for you to work out your salvation, please complete the enclosed lesson and Parole Status form as well as respond to this letter in a more Godly spirit than you responded to DJ’s letter. It is and will always be your choice.

4. Notice that Chuck is just as mean in his letters as he is in person. Was he too severe?
5. What will do more to facilitate change in a person’s life: feeling sorry for him or turning him around to face the truth? Why?
6. How would you respond to this letter?
7. How do think this man responded?

The following are some of the exchanges in correspondence since these first two letters:

Mentee: *Just because some mannerisms are not masculine does not mean I wear a dress and high heels. This way of thinking is so “Man in the Box.”*

Chuck: *If abuse took you to presenting yourself as a woman, where should healing take you?*

Mentee: *Another wrong is I do own up to my behavior of masturbating in front of a “Godly” woman or any female.*

Mentee (later): *Then to have a Godly woman say it was okay if I needed it also allowed me to pass the buck. But now I know, as you said, I had a choice.*

Mentee: *I am slowly opening up the scabs of the past to get to the core (poison). It is very hard for me. When I feel threatened, I lash out like I did at DJ (previous mentor).*

Next is from his most recent letter (about a year later) to Chuck.

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Wow! Has this been a rough 3 weeks. I am sorry I've taken so long to answer. My mind has been going all over the place. As you probably have heard, we had a \$900 commissary theft which led to a two week lockdown/shakedown. Right before this my mom (84) fell & broke her wrist, right one & she is right-handed. Because of that & other health problems in her life, Dad had to place her in the nursing home part of where they live. Dad just could not cope alone taking care of her. I have been on a roller coaster ride over this. I feel so guilty for not being there for them.

I so wish I could have been there for the guy hurting from his past. As you said, I know the pain & struggle but now I also know the cleansing I got when I chose to let go & heal.

Well, somewhere between 30 & 60 days I will be "home". I honestly have a healthy fear of this but look forward to the challenge. I know I have a great support team there & with my parents.

Oh boy! I loved "The Shack". So much so that I've read it 3 times & look forward to reading it there again.

Yes I do have a sense of humor. When we do "Family Member of the Month" I am usually asked to do it. I play a practical joke on each in accordance to their personality & no one gets mad.

Are you sure the Cowboys are using Thinking Errors? To me it is more along the lines of Irrational Beliefs & Issues. Ha-ha! It could be that Jones, Garrett, & Romo are deep within deviant fantasies. They are deviant as they are Harmful to Self & Others (fans). Gotcha!

I look forward to meeting you soon. Dizzy & I should get along great. At one time they said I had multiple personalities. Nope, Dizzy & I just have many wonderful facets inside our diamond sharp minds. Take care & have a great week, month, whatever.

8. What differences do you see between his first letter and this most recent one? (not defensive, not building himself up, honest about his challenges)
9. What evidence of a relationship having been developed do you see?
10. The key to this exercise is that the New Name process works for anyone who desires change in his life. Those who do not desire change respond to our process by accusing, getting defensive, and remaining steadfast in their garbage. If Chuck were to say something about "powdering the butt of sin," what do you think he would mean by that statement?
11. What do you think it took for this man to get from the first letter to the last?
12. What do you think it will take for you to get from where you are now to where you need to be?