

## Lesson 21 – Treatment 8

### Scenarios 2

This lesson will be a little different from the ones you've had in the past. There are no Bible verses to read and reflect on. In this lesson you will use some of the tools you learned in the lessons on Thinking Errors and Ownership to reflect on the scenarios presented below. There is nothing in this lesson that is intended to imply anything about your particular offense. The scenarios offer you the opportunity to reflect on the kind of thinking that is likely behind the behaviors described. Please answer the questions that follow on a separate sheet of paper. If you believe this lesson would be helpful to others you know, feel free to share it with them.

1. **Background:** You were known in prison as a solid Christian and spiritual leader. You taught Bible study classes and preached in the chapel. Once you arrive at New Name Ministries, you rise to a leadership position in a very short time.

**Situation:** You are very good at holding your brothers accountable but when they try to hold you accountable, you tend to shut down. As soon as you get off the electronic monitor, you leave the county to visit some of the men who mentored you while you were in prison. You made this trip without getting permission from your parole officer. When the men in your home asked you if parole had approved the trip, you lied to them. You also told them, "I know my heart." Soon after that, you meet a woman at your AA/NA meetings. You begin to spend a lot of time with her even though you agreed to not have any sexually or emotionally entangling relationships. After you are released from New Name due to your commitment to violate your covenant, you mention to one of the men who was in your home that you were not going to have a "bed of fire," referring to your intentions in your relationship with this woman. By the way, the woman you intend to marry is on meth. You refuse to pay rent to the man who rented a room to you after you left New Name. Eventually, you end up back in prison.

**Discussion:** Who is the real you, the spiritual leader as exhibited in prison, the covenant breaker and parole violator, or something else? What is your view of covenant? What is your view of sex? Why did you end up back in prison?

2. **Background:** You applied to New Name Ministries, agreeing to all of its conditions, guidelines, and expectations. You were accepted and have been released from prison.

**Situation:** Once at New Name, they have you watch a number of teachings about the importance of being your brother's keeper and strategies for doing so in love. When your brothers in the home notice that you are not holding your brothers in the home accountable, they address this with you. You tell them that holding your brothers accountable is a violation of your moral code.

**Discussion:** Describe who you are. Why is holding your brothers accountable a violation of your moral code? Where is your trust in God in this situation? Are other Christians more or less safe around you instead of around a brother who will hold them accountable?

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3. **Background:** You've applied to New Name Ministries stating your desire for transformation and have been accepted. You are granted parole and have been sent to another unit to attend a pre-release program.

**Situation:** As you near completion of your program, you begin to hear rumors that New Name may not have a bed available for you as soon as TDCJ is ready to release you. You have a friend who tells you that New Name's local parole office is tiring of the ministry. You don't bother asking how this friend knows this information. You decide to look for another place to parole to but continue to communicate with New Name as usual. Finally, when you learn of your acceptance to another facility and parole's approval of your release plan, you write New Name to notify them that you have changed your plans along with a long list of grievances, including how you made the decision not to come to New Name several months earlier.

**Discussion:** How honorable were you throughout this process? What percentage of inmate rumors do you probable believe? Do you want transformation or to get out of prison as quickly as possible?

4. **Background:** You've been released from prison to New Name Ministries, agreeing to all of its conditions, including attending ministry classes in the evening. You are fortunate enough to land a job that pays fairly well. Your family has provided you with money for a car as many in your family are wealthy and you admire them greatly. The only problem is that the attorney general has attached your wages for child support payments. The money you are left with each month is enough to pay your bills but not much else. Once again, your family steps up and gives you money from time to time. You use some of this money to buy some of your favorite fast food. Basically, you are living paycheck-to-paycheck as you accumulate no savings.

**Situation:** Your job offers you more work hours but they are in the evening when ministry classes are held. You want to take advantage of the offer and ask your house leadership if you can miss the classes. You are told "no" and then give you give two weeks' notice of leaving the ministry.

**Discussion:** What part of transformation do you really want? Since you gave only two weeks' notice, what answer had you planned to receive from house leadership about your request to miss classes to work more hours? Who do you serve, God or mamma?

5. **Background:** You've been with New Name for 10 months and appear to be on track to graduate. Suddenly, you decide to leave stating that your parole officer recommended that you leave the "sinking ship."

**Situation:** Since leaving New Name, you have only negative things to say about the ministry while the other men who have the same officer as you report how much he likes working with the men from the ministry. He gives them a great deal of liberty and trusts them to do the right thing.

**Discussion:** What is the likelihood that your parole officer told you what you said he said? Were you being real while at New Name or just performing? How did you spend 10 months at the ministry making them think you were on track to graduate?