

Lesson 23 – Treatment 9

Just Joking

Read these Scripture verses and story below and then 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.

“Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJ)

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

“So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15

The once was a very wealthy man who asked a married woman, “Will you sleep with me for a million dollars?” She thought for just a moment for answering, “Yes, I will.” Then he asked her again, “Will you sleep with me for one-hundred thousand dollars?” She thought for a bit longer before answering, “Yes, I will.” Finally, the man asked her, “Will you sleep with me for ten dollars.” Taken aback, the woman exclaimed, “What kind of woman do you think I am!?” The man answered, “We’ve already determined that, now we are just negotiating the price.”

One thing we have learned here at New Name is that there is a difference between knowing the truth and being steadfast in the truth. We regularly test our men for how they are thinking, hoping to see improvement in their ability to make good, healthy decisions. Sometimes, even after making improvement, we will see a man spike on one of these tests, showing us that his ability to make good decisions and somehow, mysteriously deteriorated. After a little probing (more for those who are in the habit of performing instead of being), we find that he has had increase in stressors (work troubles, relationship problems, health issues, etc.) in his life.

In the treatment process, we learn that we can experience environmental changes in our life and when this happens, we need to apply adaptive (healthy) coping mechanisms instead of maladaptive (unhealthy) coping mechanisms in our life. This can be anything from reaching out to our support group to engaging in stress reducing activities like hobbies or exercise. The only problem is, what happens between the onset of the stressors and the beginning of adaptive coping mechanisms? We experience a spike in our ability to make good decisions. But we have something available to us to keep this from happening. We can become so committed to the truth that when these stressors come, we are immovable, we remain steadfast, nothing

Lesson 23 – Treatment 9

Just Joking

changes in the way we process information and make decisions. Who we are is determined well ahead of time so who we are in any situation does not change.

1. Describe a time in your life when what was happening around you had more to do with your character than who you really wanted to be. Be specific.
 - a. How did you feel about the decisions you made at the moment you made them?
 - b. How did you feel about the decisions you made the day after you made them?
2. What can you do to set your mind and heart on truth so that your experiences cannot move them?
3. What can you do now to set your mind and heart on truth so that your experiences once released from prison cannot move them?