**Changed Into His Image**

Lesson Ten: Being a God-Loving Example

**Introduction**: Hopefully the first two sections, restraining your flesh and renewing your mind, have been a help to establish a Christlike character within you. God intends next to use what He has produced in your life to have a Christlike influence on others. God is calling you to spiritual leadership. Spiritual leadership does not mean that every believer must hold some official position in the church. J. Oswald Sanders said this about spiritual leadership: “Leadership is influence, the ability of one person to influence others to follow his or her lead.” Sometimes we may call this influence ministry, discipleship, shepherding, spiritual parenting, or mentoring. The purpose is the same,: challenging others to change and to grow into Christlikeness.

By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

* Explain how to make a difference as a servant-leader in the lives of others.
* Understand how to test your real priorities in life.
* Recognize the extravagance in the life of a lover of God.

1. **How to Make a Difference**
   1. You have to be different to make a difference.
   2. You cannot change anything by adding more of the same.
      1. If you have a glass of unsweetened iced tea, you cannot change the taste by pouring more unsweetened iced tea into the glass. You must add something different: sugar, lemon, or ginger ale.
      2. The greatest spiritual impact is made upon people by someone who is different from them.
   3. Those who have great impact for God, are those who have great passion for Him, fueled by meditation upon His Word.

1. **Loving God with All Your Heart**
   1. “What you love and what you hate reveal what you are.” (Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)
      1. Our passions easily become our idols.
      2. Priorities will show our true love.
         * 1. Our anxieties reveal our priorities.
           2. Our preoccupation reveals our priorities.
           3. Our anger reveals our priorities.
   2. Biblical change leads to a passionate relationship with the God of heaven that makes every other love pale in comparison.

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.” (C.S. Lewis)

1. **A God-exhilarated lover is extravagant**
   1. No one is apathetic all the time. Every man is passionate about something
   2. Mary’s extravagant gift
      1. Mary broke an alabaster box to anoint the feet of Jesus.
      2. Those who have reflected much on His forgiveness may even be accused of overdoing it in their giving, but that is to be expected, they are lovers.
   3. Mary’s extravagant attention
      1. Mary gives her time and attention to the Lord.
      2. God-loving examples to the next generation, are people who cannot get enough time with God.
   4. David’s extravagant praise
      1. David, the sweet psalmist of Israel.
      2. The psalms of David are full of thoughts of God’s deliverance, goodness and mercy.
   5. Paul’s extravagant service
      1. Paul knew that “bonds and afflictions” awaited him in Jerusalem. He remained resolute. (Acts 20:23, 24)
      2. His friends begged him not to go to Jerusalem. He remained resolute. (Acts 21:10-13)
   6. The extravagance of our God
2. **Masters at Meditation**
   1. We are all masters at meditation
      1. We meditate every time we experience a temptation
         * 1. Consider the first temptation in the Garden of Eden. Gen. 3:6
           2. Her passions were inflamed by meditating upon the virtues and benefits of the fruit.
      2. We will meditate. Our only option is the choice of fuel for our reflection: God’s truth or Satan’s lie.
   2. People who are passionate about God spend much time listening to and reflecting upon the Word of God.
3. **Application for Life Change**
   1. Respond by repenting of other “loves” that have taken priority over wholehearted love for God.
   2. Respond by seeking ways to demonstrate extravagant love to God.
   3. Respond by asking God to make you a God-loving example.