

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Whole New You Series, Lesson 22

Lesson Title: A New Mind

Take Home Point: We can have the mind of Christ.

Warm-Up:

I own an older car; in fact, I have driven it over 270,000 miles! Several years ago, it became apparent that the original engine was wearing out and would no longer be able to do the job. So what do you suppose I did? I took it to the shop and told them to replace all the wiring, hoses, and belts. But that didn't fix the engine not having power enough to move the car. I took it back and had them put on new tires, brakes, and muffler system. That didn't fix it, either. So I decided to take it to a body shop, where they repaired all the minor damage to the body and gave it a really good paint job. Not surprisingly, that didn't fix it at all! What was I doing wrong? Everything I did was external to the problem. All those really good things would only be useful if I put in a new engine. Until then I was wasting my time and money.

Read: 1 Corinthians 2:12,16; Romans 12:2; Luke 19:1-9

Observation (What happened?):

How are we transformed?

How did Zacchaeus visibly demonstrate his transformation?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to receive God's Spirit? How do we know we have received it?

What do you think motivated Zacchaeus to his generosity and restitution of stolen money?

Insight:

In Luke 5:36-38, the gospel writer records Jesus telling two parables about the need to be transformed: "No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins." (NIV) What was Jesus telling his audience? That to live for God, one must start over. The writer of Hebrews points to the same transformation in Chapter 10. The old way of animal sacrifice was thrown away and completely replaced by the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Just like the old car I described above, it's not enough to try to live a good life or fix the things in our life we believe are broken. We must be transformed, given the Spirit of God so we can have the mind of Christ.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you know that you've been transformed by Jesus renewing your mind?

Look back on your life. Think of one area in which you can see God transforming you and thank him for it.