THE PROBLEM AND POWER OF PAIN
WEEK 4 • DAILY BRIEFING 3 • JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL?

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 32:10

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

This week follows Sunday's sermon, "Self-Inflicted Suffering." You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for trusting me with real responsibility. Forgive me for waiting on You to make decisions You have already delegated and equipped me to make. Give me wisdom, and help me act faithfully in line with Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

On Sunday we talked about radical ownership. There is a belief floating around the church that quietly works against it. A lot of Christians think the most spiritual thing they can say is "Jesus, take the wheel," like the old country song. It sounds humble, but Jesus does not take the wheel. He hands you the keys, tells you where He wants you to go, and expects you to obey the rules of the road along the way. The belief that needs to be corrected is that Jesus has not given you the responsibility and authority to make real decisions as long as they are in line with His stated mission, methods, and morals.

Most people want God to tell them exactly who to date, what to do with their money, or where to send their kids to school. If God makes the call, then the outcome is His fault, which is the same move Adam made yesterday when he blamed "the woman whom you gave to be with me." But God usually commands objectives and boundaries, and then gives you a lot of room to choose how to get there. For example, a widow in the early church was "free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:39). In another case, the early church made real decisions together, saying, "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28).

Picture walking into the post office with a package and saying, "Please get this to this address in Miami by Christmas Eve. I don't care if you drive it there, fly it there, or carry it on the back of a camel. Just get it to that specific address, on time, and don't break it." God works a lot like that. He tells you the outcome, "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). He gives you the rules, like "do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:9), and do not "tamper with God's word" (2 Corinthians 4:2). Then He leaves a lot of the method up to you. And if God does not want you going a certain way, He is fully able to stop you, the way He stopped Paul from going to specific cities in Acts 16:6–10.

God has always worked like this. In the Old Testament, He gave Israel the Ten Commandments and a body of case law that showed how those commands applied in real situations. He then required any future king to write out his own copy of the law and read from it every day of his life (Deuteronomy 17:18–19). The king was not handed a script and checklist for every decision. He was handed the law and expected to rule by it. In the first passage today, Jesus was heading toward Jerusalem, and the crowds expected Him to set up His kingdom right away (Luke 19:11). He told a story about a nobleman who left to receive a kingdom and would return later, which is a picture of Jesus Himself. For the parable, you will need to know that a "mina" was a sum of money worth roughly three months' wages. In the second passage, a religious expert tested Jesus by asking which commandment was the greatest. Jesus answered by naming the principles underneath the rules, and He expected His people to apply them going forward.

READ & MEDITATE

Luke 19:12–13, 15–17

He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. [13]Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ … [15]When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. [16]The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ [17]And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’”

Matthew 22:37–40

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. [38]This is the great and first commandment. [39]And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. [40]On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

In the Bible, the heart is where your thoughts and desires come from. As you read, notice how much detail each passage gives and how much it leaves up to the listener.

REFLECT

Answer these honestly. This is between you and God, and nobody else needs to see what you write.

The nobleman gave his servants money and one instruction.

1. Fill in the blank from Luke 19:13: “Engage in _____ until I come.”

What did the nobleman not tell his servants?

He did not give them a step-by-step plan. He trusted them with something valuable and a clear goal, and then he came back to see what they had done with it.

When the nobleman returned, he called his servants in.

2. What does verse 17 tell you about how God responds to faithful decisions?

This is not doing life on your own. Paul wrote, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you” (Philippians 2:12–13). You do the work, and God is at work in you while you do it.

Jesus was asked to pick the most important command in the entire law.

3. How do the two commands in Matthew 22:37–39 help you make decisions the Bible never addresses directly?

Some “waiting on God” is really putting off obedience while waiting for someone else to take the risk.

4. What decision are you “waiting on God” to make for you that you need to make for yourself?

What has He already told you in His Word that applies to it?

5. What would faithful stewardship look like this week if you made the call within God’s stated mission, methods, and morals?

PRAYER

Bring what you just wrote to God. Write your prayer or pray out loud.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Psalm 32:10 from memory.