

Seven Redemptive or Motivational Gifts - Lesson Four

- I. Introduction
 - A. Law of First Mentions
 1. Not actual law in the Bible
 2. More of a principle
 3. Something students of the Bible have realized through the Scriptures
 4. The order in which things are mentioned are often important
 - B. Each Motivational Gift relates to other things that are in Sevens in Scripture
 1. The order of creation in Genesis
 2. The order of the listing or using of the furniture in the Tabernacle
 3. The Seven compound names of God
 4. Seven last sayings of Jesus from on the cross
 5. Letters to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation
 - C. We will relate each gift to each of these things
 1. Then look at the tendencies and strengths of each gift
 2. And look at the weaknesses of each one
- II. NASB uses the phrase “he who leads” - we will follow the teaching of Charles Wade and Arthur Burk and use “**Ruler**”. I personally like organizer
 1. The sixth day of creation parallels the gift of Ruler
 - a. Sixth day God made animals, insects and humans
 - b. Told Adam and Eve to take dominion over the earth
 - c. Gen 1:28 - “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”
 - d. Dominion over other people may be assumed, perhaps, but God did not say that on the sixth day
 - e. Rulers have a wonderful ability to mobilize many people to accomplish a task
 - f. They understand when to push people, when to inspire, when to lead.
 2. The sixth item of furniture in the Tabernacle is the Ark of the Covenant
 - a. Ex 25:10-16; 37:1-5
 - b. Inside the ark three things that represent the basis of a ruler’s authority of leading a human community
 - c. The Law - 10 Commandments
 - (1) ruler needs to be submitted to law of God
 - (2) all human authority is derived from submission
 - (3) submitted to God or does not have a legal right to exercise authority
 - d. Golden pot of Manna
 - (1) Was God’s life-sustaining provision for Israel
 - (2) has a moral right to lead when life flows from him to them
 - e. Aaron’s rod that budded
 - (1) God spoke and appointed the Levitical tribe to their task
 - (2) because of carnality and rebellion in the camp
 - (3) it represents the sovereign appointment to an office by God
 3. Compound name of Jehovah
 - a. the sixth of the names of Jehovah is Jehovah-Tsidkenu

- b. "The Lord our Righteousness"
 - c. Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - d. Rulers must choose to rule by righteousness instead of manipulation, bribery or compromise
 - e. Truly effective leaders possess character enough to take a stand on righteousness even if it costs them
4. Seven last sayings of Jesus on the cross
- a. Each one of the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross parallels a challenge for that gift
 - b. The sixth thing Jesus said on the cross was, "It is Finished" - John 19:30
 - c. He was referring to paying the price for sin
 - d. When we come to the Father for salvation, we receive justice, not just mercy or grace
 - (1) justice because Jesus has paid in full for every one of our sins
 - (2) God not merely choosing to look the other way
 - (3) or bend the rules
 - (4) the payment has been made
 - e. As rulers apply this truth to their lives
 - (1) they realize there is nothing they have "to do" to stand righteous before God
 - (2) they will come into a large place of freedom
5. Letter to the seven churches in Revelation
- a. Rev 3:7-13 the church in Philadelphia
 - b. "These things says He who is holy, He who is true....." NKJV
 - c. Righteousness and holiness are the issue on which rulers will rise or fall
 - d. "I know your works, see, I have set before you an open door and no one can shut it; for you have little strength, have kept My Word and have not denied My Name."
 - (1) God blesses the Righteous ruler
 - (2) they will go through doors that God has opened for them
 - (3) there is grace on them to find resources that other people don't see
 - e. Rulers should know and rest on the Word Of God and don't need validation or affirmation of others.
6. Rulers may not be in charge of the whole game, but should be powerful in their area no matter how small or how big it is. Their name does not say it, but can easily work under authority of another.
7. Some attitudes tendencies and motivations of a Ruler
- a. Thrives under pressure
 - (1) can put those around them under the same pressure
 - (2) that can be motivational or abusive
 - b. Is skilled at time management - controls his time and gets the job done
 - c. Can be loose on ethics when the end justifies the means
 - d. Pulls together a group based on loyalty to the mission
 - e. Takes a vision and puts together an effective plan - Is normally an implementer and not a visionary
 - f. Not into blame, just wants "to fix it" when something goes wrong

- g. Is an empire builder - wants to make anything bigger and better
 - h. Focuses on immediate task
 - i. Is not easily distracted from a task
 - j. Does not need the affirmation of other people when he has made up his mind
 - k. Very organized - lists, plans, steps, equipment
 - l. Is willing to be vindicated by God and not man
 - m. Can withstand strong opposition
8. Major Weaknesses of the Ruler
- a. Insensitivity. Since he is goal-oriented, he
 - (1) may fail to nurture those around him
 - (2) may apply too much pressure to others
 - b. Ethics and integrity. End justifies the means attitude at times.
 - c. Compromise. Settling for his chosen agenda instead of God's agenda
9. Biblical example of a ruler
- a. Nehemiah
 - b. The story of Nehemiah provides a great example of the ruler gift
 - c. The ruler can gravitate to a position of responsibility
 - (1) Nehemiah held high position as cupbearer to the king
 - (2) Neh. 1:11
 - d. Ruler gets the big picture of how to repair a broken situation or how to do a task
 - e. Nehemiah heard reports about Jerusalem and knew what needed to be done to repair the walls - Neh. 1:2-3, 2:5
 - f. A mature righteous ruler does things on God's strength
 - (1) although his natural talents and gifts are impressive
 - (2) Nehemiah did not rely on his own strength but prayed to God for wisdom and strength
- B. The seventh Motivational Gift we will just call **Mercy**. The NASB uses the phrase "he (or she) who shows mercy". This is no doubt a special gift or motivation and sometimes called the "Crown Jewel" of the gifts. This gift is more about "to be" than "to do".
- 1. The seventh day of creation parallels the mercy gifted person
 - a. Genesis 2:1-4
 - b. First six days God was busy doing
 - c. On the seventh day God was just "being"
 - d. While the mercy is capable of doing many things
 - e. God spent the seventh day savoring what he had done
 - (1) Mercy sees God's fingerprints in a more complete way than the other gifts
 - (2) God created nothing new on the seventh day, but celebrated everything
 - (3) mercy celebrates what is good, right and true
 - f. God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it
 - g. The call of Mercy is to celebrate God through worship
 - (1) to sanctify time in their own lives
 - (2) and the lives of others
 - h. Mercy person draws from all the other gifts

- i. In turn enhances all the other gifts
- 2. Seventh item of furniture in the Tabernacle is the Mercy Seat
 - a. Mercy seat placed over the ark of the covenant
 - b. Ex 25:17-22; 37:6-9
 - c. A wonderful promise made concerning the Mercy Seat
 - (1) “There will I meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat.”
 - (2) it provided a way for the presence of God to dwell with his imperfect and unholy people without consuming them
 - d. The gift of mercy can move from the unclean fallen world to the throne room with the greatest of ease
 - e. God’s call on the mercy gift is to erase the line between secular and sacred by bringing the fullness of God to all types of situations and people
- 3. Compound names of Jehovah
 - a. The seventh name is Jehovah-Shammah
 - (1) “The Lord who is Present”
 - (2) Ezekiel 38:35
 - b. In Ezk. 47 and 48 God gives instructions on how to divide the land for an inheritance among the 12 tribes of Israel
 - c. Concludes by saying “the distance around will be 18,000 cubits. And the name of the city from that time on will be The Lord is There. (Jehovah-Shammah)
 - d. Most mercy’s desire and seek the presence of God for themselves
 - (1) God’s design is for them to bring his presence to their cities and regions
 - (2) to bring the manifest presence of God to earth
- 4. Seven last sayings on the Cross
 - a. Each one of the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross parallels a challenge for that redemptive gift.
 - b. Seventh thing Jesus said was “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
 - c. Luke 23:46
 - d. After he had earlier said why have you forsaken me
 - e. It seems like a simple thing - but represents one of the greatest challenges of the mercy gift.
 - f. The gift of mercy has a simple solution for dealing with those who hurt them - they stay away from them
 - g. The Mercy person when hurt often withdraws from anyone who hurts them
 - h. Ironically, mercy has few enemies yet seems that they may have weak reconciliation skills
 - i. This also can apply to their relationship with God
 - (1) when they feel God has hurt them
 - (2) abandoned them
 - (3) let them down
 - (4) they can ignore God and move away from intimacy
 - (5) they must move toward God, rather than pull back
- 5. Seven letters to the churches in Revelation

- a. Parallels the church of Laodicea
 - b. Rev 3:14-22
 - c. “You are wretched, poor, pitiful, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear to cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes to see.”
 - d. The gold refined in the fire refers to character refined by overcoming problems and trials
 - e. Rev. 19 shows white clothes represent the good deeds of the saints
 - f. Eye salve is for seeing into the spiritual realm where important things are
 - g. It easy for mercy to be lukewarm and go after comfort in the natural realm
 - h. Quality of character is defined in hardships - maybe even developed
6. It appears that mercy people are sensitive not only to others, but sensitive in general
7. Some attitudes, tendencies and motivations of a mercy gifted person
- a. Gets along with everybody easily. Rarely has enemies.
 - b. Is admired and respected
 - c. Is a safe person for those who are wounded. Can make everyone feel safe sharing their hurts. Often approached by complete strangers
 - d. Can tell who is feeling rejected or wounded.
 - e. Craves intimacy of soul and physical touch.
 - f. Hears from God but has difficulty explaining “Why” - operates on subjective and intuitive feelings
 - g. Doesn’t like to choose sides between people
 - h. Can become people-pleaser and an enabler
 - i. Tends to take offense for a third party
 - j. Is drawn to gift of prophet: opposites attract
 - k. Has a predisposition to worship
8. Major weaknesses of the Mercy person
- a. Impurity. Desire for intimacy and physical touch can lead to impurity
 - b. Enabling. Wants to protect others from pain
 - c. Compromise. Willing to live with mixture of holy and unholy
 - d. Non-confrontational. May tolerate abuse and exploitation
9. Biblical example of Mercy
- a. Apostle John
 - b. Mercy has ability to sense genuine love
 - c. John uses word “Love” more than any other writer
 - d. 1 John 2:5; 3:1, 11, 14, 16-18, 23; 4:7-12, 16-21; 5:1-3; 2 John 6; 3 John 1, 6
 - e. John spent much time with Peter a Prophet gifted person
 - f. A mercy wants physical closeness and quality time
 - g. John frequently found next to Jesus
 - h. A mercy can measure relationships by love
 - i. John identified himself as the disciple Jesus loved
 - j. Worship comes easily for a mercy - John wrote the magnificent worship scenes in Rev 4:1-11; 5:1-14; 15:2-4; 19:1-10; 22:8-9