

Thinking Differently IV – Dr. James McDonald Study Notes

04-24-16

Prov. 23:7 Thinking determines outcome more than anything else. Nothing is different until I think differently. We have to control the input if want to control the output.

Destroying the Strongholds of our Family of Origin Part II - Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:22-24; Phil 4:8, Phil. 2:5 Our minds are the places where the battle is won or lost.

Our minds are our deepest selves; more than just thinking, but also better described as our heart. **Mk. 7:20-23**

Strongholds are fortified places in our thinking that are resistant to God's Word and God's way. You may be completely blind to them because you were born that way from your disposition or from your family and environment that you were raised in.

We can't think differently and tear down these strongholds until we *know* what they are.

1. Gen. 27 There is no complete list of strongholds and Jacob doesn't have them all.

4a. Selfish deception strongholds. Gen. 27:1-4 A transmission of physical and spiritual possessions.

Isaac is very selfish; it's just the way he rolls. He's the leader, so he does whatever he wants.

Mk. 10:44-45 Here's how our leader thinks; we need to think like Him, not how Isaac thought.

VV. 5-8 Doesn't she have another son? Where is his consideration in all of this?

VV. 9-10 Playing favorites because she doesn't care how it makes Esau feel.

She's stealing an enormous inheritance; she's stealing from her husband whom she's vowed to love. She's stealing from a blind old man; She's not just doing this on her own, but is training and using her own son to pull it off!

VV. 11-12 Without missing a beat, she responds demonstrating that this was something she had been planning for a while. **V. 13.** How much respect does she have for her husband?

Some of us grew up in homes where, when the pressure is on, we lie to get what we think we have to have or fear we won't have (Abraham and Isaac did it and now it's being successfully passed on to Jacob).

Selfish deception strongholds. "My needs before your needs"; "Lying is better than losing"; "Under pressure, keep lying"; "Play like kids with the favorites"; "If in doubt, press ahead".

Isaac is the passer of the baton, but he's very selfish in his *thinking* about it.

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Rebekah *thinks* she can sway the whole thing and forgets that God will always win. Esau *thinks* that he's got all the time in world to get his life squared with God but doesn't know that he's already past the point of no return.

4b. Money matters most stronghold. Gen. 27:30-38 Thinking it was Esau (his favorite), he piles on blessings and leaves nothing for his only other son?

VV. 39-40 This is less than nothing! This is a seriously twisted, dysfunctional family.

This was a *non-monetary society*. Had it been, we would have heard of pensions, 401ks, land, oil-wells, stocks, bonds, bank accounts, and offshore holdings.

Jacob grabbed it all! **Money matters most** to him and is what makes him happy, and he will push over his blind elderly father and take advantage of his lesser intelligent brother.

Rebekah masterminds it. **Money matters most.** How could she treat her husband like that?

Stubborn money strongholds

I have, therefore, I am; my identity is in what I have.

I count, therefore, I am safe; we don't spend, we don't give, we just count it.

You ain't going to keep it; rich man in Jesus parable who built bigger barns for his grain. He can't eat it all; it will rot and be no good to anyone. He could have calculated how much he'd need plus some more up until it spoiled and then taken the rest (like our food bank) and given it away and been such a blessing to others and then received physical and spiritual blessings from God who is his real supplier!!

It ain't going to keep you; what happened to the rich man in Jesus' parable?

I covet; therefore, I resent.

I'm content; therefore, I'm superior.

I compare; therefore, I borrow (and get in debt).

2. Review of our different dispositions –

Choleric, driving a steamroller, gets things done.

Sanguine, driving a VW Minivan with shag carpet on the floor and ceiling, and flowers painted on the side and 11 people all crammed in there at once. They are almost out of gas, but he doesn't know it because he hasn't bothered to get the gauge fixed. He just runs out and figures it out on the fly; so much fun.

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Phlegmatic, driving an electric car getting super good mileage. It's cleaned and polished and please don't touch it; but if you ask them, they will let you because saying no is against their nature (they will be biting their nails until you return); measured and faithful.

Melancholy has the same car but unlike the phlegmatic, no one ever rides in it and he couldn't be happier about that; being alone has given them such time of contemplation that they have come up with a way to improve all other cars. Makes all our vehicles better.

Choleric, discordant thinker, conflict is a barrier to getting things done. If this is you, you have conflict in your life that you are not even aware of because conflict is natural for you getting people to do what you want. It is a way of thought.

Sanguine, impulsive thinking; they were going to study what ADHD meant, but they got super busy and forgot. Intermittent explosive, turn really fast, weaker self-control at times which makes them more susceptible to addictions.

Phlegmatic, anxious thinking, more prone to PTSD, has more generalized anxiety. Panic attacks are more common.

Melancholy, depressive thinking, Eeyore (the donkey) can be given to low grade or at times high-grade depression. In the middle, at the cross roads of all our personalities is a thing called sin, and sin is responsible for all problems in the world, country, state, local region, our town, our homes, in our churches and in our lives.

Sin manifests in the Choleric. Stronghold = Anger because you think that you are fixing something or accomplishing something, but in fact you are running over people. Argument = "I Won't" Lofty Opinion = The theology that God's not just; God's not always on the job; therefore, I have to handle this, I have to settle this; unless I push, the right won't be accomplished.

Thinking Differently = Humility = not self effacing or deprecating, but simply thinking of others as more important than yourself.

Sin manifests in the Sanguine. Stronghold = Foolishness – duffiss.

Argument = "I Want"

Lofty Opinion = The theology that God is not enough; they think they need more than what He offers.

Thinking Differently = Wisdom.

Sin manifests in Phlegmatic. Stronghold = Fear = it makes many of their decisions.

Argument = "I Can't"

Lofty Opinion = Their theology is that God is not sovereign, that God is not in control. This is why worry is dominant for them.

Thinking differently = Trust God. Wait, pray and trust that God is on the throne and will take care of things in His timing.

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Sin manifests in the Melancholy. Stronghold = Despair

Argument = "I Doubt" "All the pieces are not coming together the way I planned it."

Lofty Opinion = Their theology is that God is not good; they struggle with doubt because of this.

Thinking Differently = Hope.