

The Barrier to Receiving Kingdom Truth

Discussion Questions:

(Summary) – Jesus continued to reveal key truths about Himself to His disciples in order to prepare them for His departure. Unfortunately, they comprehended almost none of it. Their preunderstandings of the Messiah that had been reinforced in their minds their whole lives through their community and culture were interfering with their ability to comprehend what Jesus was saying to them. These preunderstandings would have to be removed from their minds for God’s Kingdom truth to be understood by them.

- What are some foundational principles that have been ingrained in your mind from an early age? (Ex: winners never cheat, always tell the truth, success is the result of hard work, etc.) How do these shape the way you live? Do these affect the way you receive knowledge and ideas?
- Are there any principles, ingrained in your mind, that have been harmful to you overall? If yes, describe. Have you “unlearned” them? Describe the process.

(Point 1) – Unlearning false ideas requires a willingness to realize our ignorance. We must come to grips with the idea that “we don’t know as much as we think.” Coming to grips with this will cause us to be “less certain” about things at times, but it will also help us be more open-minded to fresh ideas that God wants to introduce.

- Have you ever had something you believed in your whole life be proven wrong? If yes, what was it? Describe the experience.

(Point 2) – Unlearning false ideas requires a willingness to lose our investments. We invest our lives in what we believe. Part of abandoning false beliefs is accepting the loss of what we invested into them.

- What have you lost in the process of abandoning false beliefs?
- Is the fear of loss keeping you from pursuing truth in some way?

(Point 3) – Unlearning false ideas requires a willingness to retrain our minds. We develop habits based upon our false beliefs and these don’t go away overnight. Unlearning false ideas requires concentrated effort to think and act differently.

- Describe some bad habits in your life that formed from bad ideas. How have you broken these habits?