

MY REPLIES IN RED.

ALL RIGHT GANG. SOMETIMES THIS WORKS AND SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T. THANK HEAVENS WE SELDOM HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME MOVING THE SCRIPTURES INTO OUR EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER, THE IHOP MEN CAME UP WITH THE CLEAREST MATERIAL. THIS I WILL TRY TO REDUPLICATE FOR YOU.

PLEASE READ ON.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Matthew 8: 1 to 8: 18 "The Transparent Focus"

The gospel of Matthew's message is powerful and relevant to our current human situation. Matthew's purpose is to give us a training manual for teaching the Deeply Satisfied Life. This material is developed for the early church, but is applicable for us today.

Matthew's teaching role model is Jesus. The "Deeply Satisfied Life" is the experience ("Gut Trip Analysis") of the term Sanctification (which is an Old Christian Code Word understood as "Head Trip Analysis").

This is our ninth lesson in this series, and is associated with "Tools For Teaching The Methods For A Happy/Holy Life". My reflections on the gospel give us the overall title of "The Training Manual For Teaching The Transparent Sanctified Life." With this metaphor established, let us continue.

I. Read the assigned reading at one time.

II. The terms "focus" and "transparency."

Perhaps, it is best to call to mind (again) two of the words in today's topic: "focus" and "transparency."

"Focus"-- The focus of the Gospel of Matthew is to live in an intimate relationship to At-One-Ment.

"Transparency" – Is to discover our essence, meaning or authenticity: **In the study of Matthew 5: 1 – 12**, "Transparent Happiness," the term "transparency" was associated with something that is "apparent." In this sense, something that is "trans-parent" is something that becomes apparent after we see through it. It is finding the significance of the object. In Christian terms, as we look through the mundane we discover a revealed meaning; this is a revelation or an epiphany.

The use of transparency does not make up something that is not already there. The use of these tools reveals something that is already there, but previously undisclosed to us. Transparency happens when the essence of something is made clear to us.

Let's see how this works.

THE IHOP BIBLE STUDY BEGAN WITH A BETTER FORMULA FOR UNDERSTANDING THIS ASSIGNMENT. I WISH I COULD INCLUDE THE DIAGRAM. HOWEVER, PLEASE VISUALIZE A ROUND TARGET WITH A CENTER AND AN OUTSIDE RING.

IN THE CENTER OF THE TARGET ARE THE WORDS: FOCUS, FULLY HUMAN, REALLY REAL, TRANSPARENCY AND AT HOME.

AROUND THE EDGES OF THE TARGET AT THE WORDS: UN-HUMAN (RACISM, SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA), IN-HUMAN (SELF-DEPRECIATION, HUBRIS, SUICIDE), AND VACATION.

AFTER GETTING THE TARGET AREAS IDENTIFIED, THE IHOP SPENT SOME TIME GROUNDING THESE WORDS IN OUR HUMAN EXPERIENCE:

THE CENTER OF THE TARGET:

"THE REALLY REAL" IS THE KIND OF LIFE GOD INTENDS FOR HUMANS TO LIVE:

"FULLY HUMAN" DESCRIBES THIS REALITY TOO;

"FOCUS" IS IDENTIFIED ABOVE;

**“TRANSPARENCY” IS GROUNDED IN THE EXPERIENCE THAT THIS GOOD LIFE IS ALREADY AVAILBLE TO US, AND TO WHICH WE AWAKEN MORE AND MORE;
“AT HOME” IS EXPERIENCED AS A SENSE OF PLACE. OBSERVE, THE CENTER OF THE TARGET IS “AT HOME.”**

THE EDGES OF THE TARGET

“UN-HUMAN” AND “IN-HUMAN” SEEM CLEAR ;

“VACATION” IS GROUNDED IN THE WAY LIFE IS (TWLI). OBSERVE THAT TWLI IS NOT {AT HOME}. IT IS GOD’S INTENTION FOR US TO LIFE IN THE CENTER OF THE TARGET. HOWEVER, BECAUSE WE SPEND OUR FOUR SCORE AND TEN IN THIS PHYSICAL BODY, WE COME TO BELIEVE THIS IS “AT HOME,” AND IT IS NOT! WE ARE CREATED TO LIVE IN AT-ONE-MENT!

NOW, LET’S SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE SCRIPTURES.

III. Use the following scriptures to examine the essence of what it means to be a fully human person; i.e., a human being is one who is at-one with God, neighbor and self. How is this true in each of the following pericopes?

I’ll do one as an example. The other scripture are for your own development. We’ll share information a week from now. **MAYBE IT IS HELPFUL TO NOTE THAT MATTHEW USES THESE ILLUSTRATIONS AS METAPHORS OR SIMILES.**

1. 8: 1 – 4 The Man with Leprosy NOTE: MY PREVIOUS EXAMPLE IS DELETED! IT IS NOT HELPFUL AT ALL.

NEXT, ASK THIS QUESTION CONCERNING THE MAN WITH LEPROSY. BY OUR DEFINITION, IS THIS MAN LIVING ON VACATION, OR AT HOME? BECAUSE LEPROSY IS A CONDITION OF TWLI THEN THIS MAN IS LIVING ON VACATION.

NEXT, ASK THE QUESTION OF HOW THE MAN IS RESTORED TO THE KIND OF HEALTH THAT CHARACTERIZES BEING FULLY HUMAN. THE ANSWER IS THE MAN RECEIVES THE TOUCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

THE NAME “JESUS CHRIST” IS A “HEAD TRIP” WORD THAT IS TRANSLATED THROUGH “GUT TRIP ANALYSIS” AS “THE LITTLE PICTURE OF PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT. THE “BIG PICTURE” IS GOD, AND IS TRANSLATED AS “THE BIG PICTURE OF PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT.

TO SUMMARIZE: WHEN TWLI IS AWAKENED TO THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF BEING FULLY HUMAN (WHOLE, HEALTHY, AT PEACE, LIVING IN AT-ONE-MENT), THEN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO “OUR LEPROSY” IS TRANSFORMED.

NOTE: “OUR LEPROSY” IS NOT TRANSFORMED BECAUSE IT IS TWLI, BUT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR LEPROSY IS TRANSFORMED! IN THIS WAY, THE REALLY REAL IS TRANSPARENT WITHIN OUR HUMAN EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER OF THE TARGET.

2. 8: 5 – 13 The faith of the Centurion

WHAT IS THE CONCERN OF THE CENTURION? HIS SERVANT IS SICK! THIS IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF TWLI AND IS NOT THE INTENDED PURPOSE OF PERFECT AT-ONE-MENT. THE SERVANT IS “ON VACATION.”

SO, HOW IS THE SERVANT BROUGHT BACK INTO A RELATIONSHIP TO LIVING “AT HOME?” THE CENTURIAN APPRECIATES THAT JESUS HAS AUTHORITY, SIMILAR TO THE AUTHORITY INVESTED IN THE CENTURIAN. THE CENTURIAN CLAIMS THAT ALL THAT IS NECESSARY IS FOR JESUS TO SAY THE WORD! (THE WORD IS “THE GOOD NEWS!”)

JESUS IS ASTOUNDED AT THE FAITH OF THE CENTURIAN. THE “FAITH” BEING GROUNDED IN HIS SURRENDER TO THE WORD OF JESUS.

AT THIS MOMENT, THE SERVANT IS HEALED. BEING “HEALED” IN THIS WAY IS TO BE AWAKENED TO LIVING “AT HOME.”

SICKNESS REPRESENTS LIVING “ON VACATION.”

HEALTH REPRESENTS LIVING AS GOD INTENDS FOR PEOPLE TO BE FULLY HUMAN.

\3. 8: 14 – 18 Jesus heals many

VS. 14 AND 15 IS THE STORY OF PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW. AGAIN APPLY OUR FORMULA. THE WOMAN IS ON VACATION, AND THROUGH THE TOUCH OF JESUS SHE IS RESTORED TO FULL HUMANNESS. THE EVIDENCE IS SHE "ROSE AND SERVED HIM."

VS 16 – 17 IS THE STORY OF THE HEALING MANY WHO ARE POSSESSED OF DEMONS. THE DEMONS ARE ON VACATION.

THIS SCRIPTURE REPORTS THAT JESUS HEALS THEM "WITH HIS WORD!" THIS FULFILLS THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH, "THE LITTLE PICTURE OF WHOLENESS TOOK THOSE WHOSE CONDITION INDICATED THEY WERE ON VACATION AND DEMONSTRATED THROUGH HIS LIFE THE KIND OF LIFE THAT ILLUMINATES LIVING AT HOME." ISAIAH 53: 4 (A TRANSLITERATION, OF COURSE!)

4 8:19 – 21 The cost of following Jesus

THIS NEXT PIECE OF SCRIPTURE IS ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITES. JESUS USES THIS FORMULA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS—"LET'S GO OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE. IS IT RHETORICAL TO ASK "WHERE IS THE OTHER SIDE?"

OF COURSE, THE OTHER SIDE IS "AT HOME!"

WHEN THIS EXPLANATION IS APPLIED, THEN THE FOLLOWING TWO CHARACTERS ARE EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

VSS 21 AND 22--THE STORY OF TURNING AWAY THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BURY HIS FATHER BEFORE HE "WENT TO THE OTHER SIDE" IS CONSIDERED ONE OF JESUS "HARD STORIES."

WHEN WE EXPERIENCE "LIVING ON VACATION," AS OPPOSED TO "LIVING AT HOME," THEN THIS STORY IS MADE EASY. HOW? VSS 21 AND 22:BURYING YOUR FATHER IS LIVING ON VACATION!

VSS 19 AND 20-- ASK THE QUESTION, WHERE DOES THE SON OF MAN LAY HIS HEAD? GOT IT? GOT IT!

5. 8: 22 – 27 Jesus calms the storm THIS PERICOPHE DOES NOT BELONG WITH THIS PART OF THE CHART. IT GOES WITH THE NEXT LESSON.

THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE. DID YOU FIND THIS HELPFUL?