



# Conviction Versus Mercy

*an adult Bible class (shaped by Gardner Hall's book of the same name).*

Date	Lesson	Reading <i>Please read and reflect on the passages before you come to class. Some of the questions for review can be answered before class – but they are meant for personal review after class – based on what the class and Scripture has helped you see.</i>
9/6	1.	<b>Introduction  </b> Colossians 2:8-10
9/13	2.	<b>Discussing Modernist Approaches  </b> Matthew 7:12ff; 22:29-32; Mark 7:6-8; Acts 15:6-21; Psalm 86:15; 103:10-14;
9/20*	3.	<b>Discussing Postmodernist Approaches  </b> Matthew 23; 1Corinthians 1:10-13; 2Timothy 3:10-4:6
10/11	4.	<b>Jesus, the man of conviction   Jesus, the man of mercy  </b> John 2:13-25; Matthew 15:1-14   Matthew 11:28-30; 12:15-21; John 21:15-19
11/1	5.	<b>Who is the enemy?  </b> Luke 6:26; Matthew 10:34; 1Timothy 1:3-11; 4:1-10; 6:9; Titus 2:10-16
11/8	6.	<b>Acting with Mercy in Conviction  </b> 2Timothy 2:24-26; Luke 6:37; Galatians 5:1-15; Colossians 4:6
11/15	7.	<b>The Challenge that the Corinthian church faced  </b> 1Corinthians 10:14-11:1
11/22	8.	<b>The Challenge that the Roman church faced  </b> Romans 14:1-15:6
11/29	9.	<b>The Challenge we will always face  </b> Romans 15:7-13

## **Lesson 1 | 9/6**

### ***Questions and Reviews:***

1. Ask Christians over 50 that you know if they have experiences that illustrate the changes from Modern to Rationalist approaches to the Post-Modern approach.
2. Who do you know who have been captured by the philosophies of the world?
3. Why do human philosophies have larger influence over larger groups today?
4. How can we engage positive conversation with those under captive?
5. Can you see in yourself when you have been enticed, or enrapt, in pursuing human philosophy for meaning?

**Next Lesson | 9/13 | Discussing Modernist Approaches**

Matthew 7:12ff; 22:29-32; Mark 7:6-8; Acts 15:6-21; Psalm 86:15; 103:10-14;

## **Lesson 2 | 9/13**

### ***Questions and Reviews:***

1. What are good working definitions of modernism? Rationalism? Creedalism? Denominationalism?
2. Do the conclusions about truth from people 100 years ago matter at all? Is there any benefit for today in seeing how they reached their conclusions?
3. What passages of New Testament Scripture that show that the writers did expect to be understood by what they wrote? And, that they expected what they wrote to be obeyed?
4. What is the difference between expressing conviction about Bible teaching and binding that conviction on others?
5. Why is expressing convictions easier than showing genuine mercy? Or, is showing mercy easier than expressing convictions?

**Next Lesson | 9/20 | Discussing Postmodernist Approaches**

Matthew 23; 1Corinthians 1:10-13; 2Timothy 3:10-4:6

## **Lesson 3 | 9/20**

## ***Questions and Reviews:***

1. What did Jesus condemn in the Pharisees?
  - a. Matthew 23:2
  - b. Matthew 23:3
  - c. Matthew 23:5-7
  - d. Mark 7:5-7
  
2. Why would 'Pharisaism' (the prideful emphasis on externals) be such a subtle danger to disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why would denominational pride (or party spirit) be such a subtle danger to disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How important are words to the communication of the gospel, of the system of faith, of Christianity?
  - a. How did God save the world (c.f. 1Corinthians 1:21)?
  - b. What has called us to God (c.f. 2Thessalonians 2:13)?
  - c. How has God provided and entrusted to us through the Apostles (c.f. Titus 1:3)?
  - d. What is the sword of the Spirit (c.f. Ephesians 6:17)?
  - e. From what does faith come (c.f. Romans 10:17)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What evidence did we discuss that shows the problems with postmodernism in religion?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Why would Christians want to get away from the concept that God's authority is manifested in the words He has revealed? What abuses might have helped encouraged the departure from seeking words from God as authority?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is it so important to distinguish between those practices chosen for personal preference and those which are chosen as following the will of God? And where have you seen this happen in your life as a Christian?

**Next Lesson | 10/4 | Jesus, the man of conviction**

John 2:13-25; Matthew 15:1-14

## Lesson 4 | 10/11

### Jesus, the man of conviction and the man of compassion

John 2:13-25; Matthew 15:1-14 | Matthew 11:28-30; 12:15-21; John 21:15-19

1. What characteristics did Paul want Israel (and Christians) to see in God? (c.f. Romans 11:22)?
2. What did the disciples remember about Jesus' reaction to the moneychangers and the sellers of doves remembered (c.f. John 2:17)? How would the News of our Day recorded it?
3. What was Jesus' reaction to the Sadducees who questioned Him about the afterlife (Luke 20:27-39)? And ironically, when does their opposition to Jesus begin (c.f. John 11, esp v. 48).
4. What was Jesus' reaction to the Pharisee's and their affinity for tradition (c.f. Mark 7:1-23).
5. How did we describe "Johnny Regulations" and "Bobby Hugs" in class?
6. Why or why not do you think we should literally do what Jesus did in the illustrations above?
7. How does Jesus describe Himself (c.f. Matthew 11:28-30; c.f. Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:20).
8. How was using Samaritans, historical enemies of the Jews (c.f. Ezra 4:2; Nehemiah 4:7ff), a demonstration of Jesus' mercy (c.f. Luke 10:29-37; 17:11-19)?
9. Who else did Jesus associate with that challenged the sensibilities of the Jews and manifested mercy (c.f. Matthew 9:9-12; Mark 2:16-17; Luke 15:1-2; Luke 7:36ff)?
10. How did Jesus manifest mercy to the 12?
  - a. Arguing over the greatest (c.f. Luke 9:46)?
  - b. Calling down vengeance (c.f. Luke 9:54)?
  - c. Demonstrating lack of faith (c.f. Luke 9:40; Matthew 14:30)?
  - d. Chasing Away Children (c.f. Luke 18:15)?
  - e. Arrogance Requests (c.f. Mark 10:37)
  - f. The callous abandonment (c.f. Matthew 26:56)?
  - g. And then compare to what He says about them in the prayer of John 17?

**Next Lesson | 11/1 | Who is the enemy? |**

Luke 6:26; Matthew 10:34; 1 Timothy 1:3-11; 4:1-10; 6:9; Titus 2:10-16

