

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

We can reach a level of wholeness in spirit that can only be attained through our obedience to the Holy Spirit who, through His grace, transforms us into His own image.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ The Bible does not teach much about renovating a house, but if we look closely at the principles involved in house renovation, we will see that it is very closely linked to what the Bible *does* teach us about the renovation of a heart.
- Renovation Principle #1 – THE COST**
- ❖ One of the first and most important considerations in renovating any particular house is *how much will it cost?* There is no point drawing up plans about taking down walls, putting in an island, expanding the kitchen, etc., if we can't afford it in the first place.
- ❖ Jesus says the same thing to those who wanted to be "renovated" to become His disciples: "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish'" (Luke 14:28).
- ❖ Jesus did not want a blind, naïve commitment that expects only blessings and a walk through the garden. He told these followers that He expected nothing less than complete, obedient surrender to Him. A disciple who gives up midstream because the going is too tough is like salt without its 'saltiness'—not appealing.
- ❖ And if we consider verses 26 and 32 of this same chapter, many of us would need a do-over to become the type of disciple described in these verses. The cost of discipleship is quite high!
- Renovation Principle #2 – THE MATERIAL**
- ❖ One of the biggest and costliest problems in a home renovation is remediating a compromised foundation. But despite the importance of a good foundation in a home—or any building—this is not all that matters.
- ❖ Imagine having a house with a solid foundation made out of steel or concrete and then building the rest of the house out of sticks or straw.
- ❖ That house won't survive bad storm, much less a hurricane. The material used to build the entire house is just as important as a solid foundation!
- ❖ At times, preachers use Matthew 7:27 to say that Jesus is only interested in the foundation. But that is not what the Lord was getting at. The 'foundation' that Jesus was speaking of regarding discipleship was Himself—the Rock.
- ❖ This was not a lesson on excavating the earth to reach bedrock. It was one of digging into our hearts to see whether we do believe that Jesus is really able to be our Sustainer in difficult times. Will we always follow? Will we always believe? Will we be good enough material to withstand the evil one in the evil day?

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 127:1; Luke 14:26-32; Matthew 7:25-27

- ❖ The most important day of a renovation is what the industry calls "Demo Day"—when workers gut the house and bring it down to the bare studs before installing quality materials to make the house strong from within.
- ❖ Are you willing to let Jesus strip you back to your bare studs, where you stand naked before Him and let His grace repair the damage done by rivers of resentment and unforgiveness? Are you willing to let Him make you over again?
- Renovation Principle #3 – THE CONTRACTOR**
- ❖ If a homeowner chooses the wrong contractor, the renovation could cost a whole lot more than anticipated. So, what should a homeowner do? Check the contractor's references.
- ❖ Let's do our homework about Jesus. What credentials does He come with? We can find out by reading what one of His beloved said about Him in John 1:1-5, 14. Want to know what kind of certificates, licenses or insurance He comes with? See verse 32 of the same chapter.
- ❖ John 1:32-36 also tells us exactly Who this Contractor is: "Behold the Lamb of God!"
- ❖ Have you heard of the "exceedingly great and precious promises" He offers in His contract (2 Peter 1:4)?
- ❖ Can we trust this Renovator? Can we lay our hearts of stone before Him and know that He's got enough insurance to cover us during the demolition? Is He able to shore up our cracked foundations? Oh, yes, He is able!
- ❖ He alone sees the *Hidden Potential* inside these not so *Good Bones* in this *Fixer-Upper* of a wretch like me, like you. He'll make us over, and He'll make a *Bargain Mansion* out of each and every one of us. Just let Him do it!
- ❖ It's Demo Day. Come get yourself into some *HGTV—Holy Ghost Transformation Vehicle!*

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever undertaken or been involved in a home renovation? What are things that have to be done in advance? What things have to be done once the work is complete?
2. When God performed a renovation on your heart, was there anything you had to do in advance? Could it have been done by your strength alone? Do you think God's work is complete, or are you a work in progress?
3. Take some time to thank God for the fact that He is in the renovation business.

Prayer Time

Lord, thank you for seeing the *Hidden Potential* inside these not so *Good Bones*. You alone are the Master Renovator. Complete Your work in me.

Start-up: When having to decide on a product, do you go with the lower price or the higher one? Why? Is that always a good decision?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

✍️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline