

PURPOSE

- The purpose of this study is to consider the connection of our **mentality** to our **activity** so that we see both the significance and the ramifications of representing The Master's mind in ministry.
- Additionally, it is to see that our mentality **affects** all activity.
- Also, it is to see the **consequences** of misrepresenting the cause of Christ through negative, bitter mentality or attitude.

TEXT: Heb. 5:8-9; Mt. 26:36-46; Phil. 2:1-11, 4:1-8; Col. 3:1-10

DEFINITION:

***Mentality* is defined as the disposition and internal attitude of an individual from which life is lived and navigated through.** *Mentality*- a way of thinking;

mental inclination or character; 1: mental power or capacity: intelligence 2: mode or way of thought.

God's aim at sending servants into this world as salt and light, ambassadors and representations of His love and wisdom, is to do so in an empowered manner. God wants all His children to step in a context of lack with the force of Jesus and right the wrongs of the human condition through faith and fully formed natures that make things better than how we found them. **Hear God say, "Be Empowered!"**

Thou shalt NOT make EXCUSES. Ref.: Heb. 5:8-9; Mt. 26:36-46

This is your mentality over your duty.

- A. An excuse oriented / driven attitude is one that removes one's power to become who God has shaped them to be. By shape this includes your giftedness your opportunities and even various incidents of your life.
- B. The mentality that one has over the responsibilities that God has given them is critical to determine whether you will become empowered or whether you will allow the occasion to be squandered.
- C. Let's consider what an excuse driven mentality is, what it does, and how we can overcome it.

WHAT IS AN EXCUSE DRIVEN MENTALITY?

- A. An excuse is an attempt to lessen the blame (a fault or offense); it is ONE'S seeking to defend or justify failure. It is the attempt to release oneself from a duty, requirement; it is an effort to explain away expectation, fault, offense or responsibility. It is an effort to offer an inadequate solution to whatever one is dealing with.
- B. **Excuses are rationalizations we make to ourselves and others about people, events, and circumstances. In effect, excuses are a relatively**

painless way to place blame for our failure to take action on external circumstances. Here are just a few of the more common excuses:

1. Not enough time.
 2. Not enough money.
 3. Not enough education.
 4. Too old or young.
 5. Don't know how or where to begin.
 6. It's too hard.
 7. Tried before and it didn't work.
 8. Waiting to be inspired.
- C. There are of course many reasons why we make excuses, though not surprisingly fear is often the underlying culprit: **Fear of failure, of embarrassment, of success, of change, and of uncertainty just to name a few.** Fear is not the only problem. There is also the lack of willpower and self-discipline which leads to lack of focus and procrastination, as well as perceived lack of resources. And sometimes, we make excuses simply to boost our self-esteem.

WHAT DOES AN EXCUSE DRIVEN MENTALITY DO?

- A. **Steal** you Power for living in the moment. (2Tim. 1:7)
- B. Make you a Poor **Steward** of Possibility. (Esther 4:14; Gal. 1-2)
- C. **Shift** Personal Responsibility (Gen. 3:1-15)
- D. **Sabotage** Potential (Mt. 26:36-45)
- E. **Shorten** your Perspective (Heb. 5:8-9)

HOW DO WE OVERCOME IT?

- A. **Admit** and identify that you do make excuses.
- B. **Accept** responsibility for your choices.
- C. **Acknowledge** weaknesses and limitations.
- D. **Actively** engage in appreciating yourself and stop comparing.
- E. **Actualize** a life that says this is a no excuse zone.