

Revitalizing Imagination

March 1, 2020

Text: Matthew 18:1-5; Romans 8:5-7

Our *imagination* is such a powerful force. Jesus pointed out, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt 6:21). In other words, the things that capture our imaginations (our treasures), whether they are wealth or sex or power, drag our hearts (our actions, our priorities) along with them. This is why he insisted that we store ourselves “treasures in heaven” (Matt 6:20). *If we allow Jesus to capture our imaginations, our actions and priorities will mirror his lifestyle and teaching* – Alan Hirsch in *ReJesus*.

What Happens to Our Imaginations?

- _____ happens to our imaginations.
- _____ happens to our imaginations.
- _____ happens to our imaginations.

Imagination is the Gatekeeper of Human Behavior

- “The mind of the _____.”
- “The mind governed by _____.”

The Spirit-revitalized Imagination

- A revitalized imagination has _____.
- A revitalized imagination _____.
- A revitalized imagination results in _____.

What about today's sermon challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- As a child, what were some of your favorite imaginative games to play? Who were the people or characters you and your friends most often tried to mimic?
- Why do you think we lose the playfulness of "make believe" as we mature? Do you think that is healthy or not? Why?
- Give some examples of how adulthood, darkness, and life happen to imagination.
- If imagination is not completely extinguished by growing up, what happens to it?
- How did you use your imagination this past week?
- What role does imagination play in Christian development?
- Explain the difference between "the mind of the flesh" and "the mind governed by the Spirit."
- If a person's imagination is ruled by "the flesh," what are they focused on? How does it affect the way they live?
- How might a Spirit-revitalized imagination change a person's purpose and mission? Relationships? Morality?
- Take some time this week to dream again. Ask the Holy Spirit to assist you. Dream of God's good future for your relationships, work, service, morality, and ministry. Write down what you envision and work toward making it reality.