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Chesemore

Session 3 | *Real Change*, ch. 2: HEAT

I. REVISITING THE THREE TREES

A. How an Illustration Fits Into the Paradigm of the Three Trees

B. The Benefits of the Paradigm

1. Helps us to think biblically and organize what we're hearing
2. Helps us to locate and speak to God's priorities
3. Not used to change the circumstances. It serves to help the person change.

II. THE HEAT: THINKING BIBLICALLY ABOUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

A. How the Diagram Helps us Think

Main Idea: How we think about, and respond to, our circumstances reveals both our understanding of God's Word and its application in our lives.

1. Our circumstances are significant
 - What we learn from Christ's Life
 - What we learn from Christ's Death
 - What we learn from Christ's Resurrection
2. Our circumstances are not determinative
 - An Illustration: A cup of Water
 - Joseph
 - Christ's life and death
 - Paul's thorn
3. Our Circumstances are revealing
 - Stability in Storms: James 1.2-18
 - Gratefulness in Blessing: Psalm 128
4. The diagram is a tool. The person is the priority.

B. How the Diagram Helps Us Listen

1. How do they describe their circumstances (the heat)?
2. How are they responding to the circumstances: thoughts, feelings, words, actions?
3. Where is God in their story?
4. What is primary and what is secondary?
5. Resist the temptation to respond to every detail, except where clarification is needed
6. Listen for what they want to change, as we help them to find hope in the unchanging God, not in ever-changing circumstances
7. Listen for circumstances or situations that raise immediate concern or require immediate attention. (Always feel free to contact your pastor!).
8. Having listened, what one step can they take?

III. CONCLUSION: Q & A

Remember: God's Word teaches us that our ultimate hope is to be placed in our unchanging God, not in our constantly changing circumstances.

Assignment: Please Read Chapter 3 of *Real Change*.