**THIS OR THAT**

**Part 3: Breaking Bad**

**OUTLINE**

OPEN

1. Welcome to all of our campuses!
2. Our lives are filled with choices. This or That.
3. Week One: We talked about “You Decide” steps to making good decisions.
4. Week Two: The Best Question – What is the WISE thing to do?
5. How many of you have found that question helpful this week?
6. How many of you it changed the direction you took?
7. Our goal with this series is to assist you in making good choices in life.
8. Today we are going to talk about Breaking Bad
9. Does anyone else find themselves doing things that you don’t want to do?
10. Turn in your Bibles to Romans 7 & 8 today.
11. In every one of us there is a struggle . . . a battle. . . good versus evil. Light versus dark. Live for God! Live for Sin.
12. The Apostle Paul writes about this same struggle.

* Romans 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.
* Romans 7:19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.
* Romans 7:21-25 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!
* Can anyone relate???

We are daily inundated with temptation – if we don’t stay on top of our game we will end up serving our flesh versus following the HOLY SPIRIT’S leading.

* 1. Example: Chainsaw Blade Sharpening This Week
     + I dropped off 4 chains in two boxes (Show Box)
     + When I picked them up – the guy asked – “Did you already pay for these?”
     + Could have said, (demon voice) “Ha ha ha . . . YES, yes I did! This is the favor of God on my life”
     + I told him NO
     + Then he was only going to charge me for two chains!
     + Tempted to say, (demon voice) “Yes . . . yes . . two chains. That's all that is in the box! Hahahaha! See the Lord REALLY wants to bless me”
     + NO – there are two in each box – charge me for four!

1. Our “bad” is not a lack of desire but a lack of stamina.

sta·mi·na – enduring energy, strength, and resilience, endurance, tenacity, staying power.

* Determination and grit
* Physical or moral strength to resist or withstand illness, fatigue, or hardship;

1. It’s a lack of strength to CHOOSE what is right.
2. Too many Christians want to be spiritual giants but only want to take baby steps.
3. Our born again spirit desires to live the Word of God and do what is pleasing. It is influenced by the Holy Spirit
4. Our carnal man, flesh nature - desires to sin, rebel, do what feels good -- It is influenced by Satan, and the evil forces.
5. STRUGGLE - Galatians puts it this way

* Galatians 5:17-18 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, (HOLY) and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. NIV
* Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. NIV

So who wins?

1. The mind is the swing vote.
2. We are a three-part human being.

* 1 Thessalonians 5:23 . . . May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV

1. Spirit – Soul (mind, will, emotions) – Body
2. Whichever side the MIND rallies with WINS!
3. EX:

* If the mind “tag teams” with the “Body = we serve the fleshly desires
* If the mind “tag teams with the “spirit” = we serve the spiritual desires and follow the Word.

1. Two is always greater than one

* Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.
* Colossians 3:1-2 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

1. The key to “breaking bad” is planting good.
2. Too many Christians STAY in the baby stage of Christianity.
3. EX: BABY puts everything in their mouth.

* Dirt, sand, carpet fuzz, a bug, dirty shoe, crumb from under the couch, etc.
* You show your maturity by the diet that you keep.
* Luke 6:43-45 No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briers. 45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. NIV
  + - GREEK- HEART = NT:2588 the thoughts or feelings (mind); also (by analogy) the middle:
* The fruit of our life is always a byproduct of the seed that has been planted.
* Matthew 12:34-37 For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

1. A transformed life will only happen to a transformed mind.

* Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
* NLT: Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world
  1. How do we break bad? Stop thinking like the world! Stop feeding on the garbage of the world.
  2. Choose THIS instead of THAT
* We must align our mind with the Word of God.
* Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIV
  1. This is the filter or litmus test.
  2. Does the approaching thought agree with God’s Word? Does it agree with what I know is truth?
  3. Thinking what is contrary to the Word of God will hinder your godly future and destiny.
  4. EX: Children of Israel – going into the promised land.
* They allowed their thoughts to be in contradiction with God’s spoken word – “Go in and possess the land.”
* They chose not to align with God.

Last thought for the day. . .

* “Let the mind of the master be the master of your mind.”

CLOSE:

What does that transformation look like?

1. Read the Word of God daily. Listen to the audio version.
2. Watch or listen to previous teachings and sermons on the media page of the RFC website.

* Over 45 SERIES. HUNDREDS of sermons

1. Read books.
2. Over dose on the things of God and starve the flesh

INVITATION

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.