

# Under New Management Week 3

## Overview

This study guide is based on the sermon "New Management - Motivation," which explores the concept of surrendering control to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It addresses the challenges of fear-driven management, the importance of aligning motivations with God's will, and practical steps to live a life that creates space for God to move.

## Key Themes

1. **Lordship of Jesus Christ:** Surrendering all aspects of life to Jesus, not just selective parts.
2. **Fear as a Motivator:** Fear drives mismanagement, while love and faith align us with God's purposes.
3. **Transforming Motivations:** Shifting from fleshly motivations to God-centered ones through obedience to His Word.
4. **Creating Space for God:** Obeying God's Word allows Him to work miraculously in our lives.

## Scripture References

- **Matthew 5:43-44:** Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- **Philippians 2:3-4:** Be humble and consider others above yourself.
- **James 1:2:** Count it joy when facing trials.
- **Matthew 6:21:** Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.
- **1 Corinthians 10:31:** Do all for the glory of God.
- **Romans 12:2:** Be transformed by renewing your mind.
- **Hebrews 4:12:** The Word of God is alive and powerful.
- **James 1:21-25:** Be doers of the Word, not just hearers.
- **John 6:63:** The Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

## Discussion Questions

1. **Understanding Lordship:**
  - What does it mean to surrender "all" to Jesus' Lordship? Why is it challenging to give up control over areas we feel we can manage?
  - Reflect on Luke 14:26-27, 33. How do these verses challenge your priorities?
2. **Fear vs. Love and Faith:**
  - The sermon identifies fear as the root of control. What fears drive your decisions (e.g., fear of failure, rejection, or loss)?
  - How does 1 John 4:16-18 suggest we overcome fear? What does it mean to live in God's love experientially?
3. **Motivations and the Heart:**
  - According to Matthew 6:21, what does your "treasure" reveal about your heart's motivations?
  - Consider the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) or Jonah (Jonah 4:2). How do their motivations (lack, revenge) compare to your own?

#### 4. **Obedying the Word:**

- Hebrews 4:12 and James 1:21-25 emphasize the transformative power of God's Word. How has the Bible challenged or changed you recently?
- Why is obedience to Scripture (e.g., forgiving, serving, tithing) often harder than hearing it? Share a personal example.

#### 5. **Creating Space for God:**

- What does it mean to "create space for God to move"? How can you practically do this in your daily life (e.g., prayer, tithing, forgiveness)?
- Reflect on Genesis 15:1-6 and Abram's mismanagement (Ishmael). How does God's faithfulness persist despite our failures?

#### 6. **Personal Reflection:**

- Is fear motivating your management style? Identify one area (e.g., finances, relationships) where fear dominates.
- What "Ishmaels" (consequences of mismanagement) do you need to address to live in God's promises?

## **Practical Applications**

#### 1. **Examine Your Heart:**

- Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal motivations not aligned with His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Journal about areas where fear controls your decisions and how you can shift to faith.

#### 2. **Engage with Scripture:**

- Choose one Scripture from the sermon (e.g., Proverbs 4:23) and meditate on it daily for a week. Write down how it challenges you to act.
- Commit to obeying one biblical command you've resisted (e.g., forgiving someone, serving others).

#### 3. **Create Space:**

- Set aside 10-15 minutes daily for prayer and Bible reading to deepen your relationship with God.
- Test God with tithing (Malachi 3:10) for three months and track how He provides.

#### 4. **Address Mismanagement:**

- Identify one area of mismanagement (e.g., poor financial decisions, unforgiveness). Repent and take one practical step to align with God's will.
- Share your commitment with a trusted friend for accountability.

## **Prayer Points**

- Ask God to change your heart so your motivations align with His glory.
- Repent of flesh-driven control and mismanagement in specific areas of your life.
- Pray for courage to obey God's Word, even when it's difficult.
- Seek God's help to create space for Him to move through faith and obedience.