

Bible Study, Matthew, Week 6

Day: 1

Read: Matthew 16-13-28

1. Here we read about two things Jesus said that involved Peter. Name them.
2. Why do you think it is told to us so close together, once Jesus says "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. (Verse 17) and in verse 23 "Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works?"
3. Can we work for God and Satan at the same time?
4. Do we always understand the will of God or do we also sometimes think we know better?

Day: 2

Read Matthew 17: 1-8

1. Do you think today's reading teaches us something about prayer?
2. Do you think Jesus' face and clothes became "light" because He was in close communion with His Father?
3. Why do you think Peter became so excited, to the extent where he probably did not know what he was saying?
4. Where do we first read about the words "This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him?"
5. What does it mean to us? Do you think it serves to confirm who Jesus is?
6. Is it not wonderful that we can share all this through the Bible?

Day: 3

Read: Matthew 17: 9-13

1. Have you ever thought of all the things you would like to ask Jesus when you are in His presence?
2. Here the disciples were also full of questions about what they have seen. Do you think they still did not really understand who Jesus really is?
3. Do you think they understood now that Jesus had to go to Jerusalem to complete His "exodus?" (Luke 9; 31, the comparison with Moses and Elijah)
4. They must have wondered if Elijah's appearance on the mountain was the fulfillment of Malachi 4: 5-6.
5. Jesus' answer was short and surprising to them, do you know why?
6. John the Baptist was Elijah and he had been murdered by Herod. This is when they realized what Jesus said in Matthew 11; 14.
7. Do you think we can say that this teaches us that we can get all the answers we are looking for in The Word Of God?
8. We must all praise and thank God for it!

Day: 4

Read: Matthew 17: 14-21

1. In this piece we are reading today there is a very simple lesson for all of us.
2. Why do you think the father was so desperate when he knelt in front of Jesus?
3. Could he have been so desperate because he thought as the disciples could not do anything maybe Jesus will not be able to do anything as well?
4. Or maybe he was not so desperate but only very insistent because he believed that in spite of the disciples' failure Jesus could help him?
5. Is it possible that we also sometimes measure what we think God can do to what we see His "disciples" do?
6. Why do you think the disciples could not drive out the demon?
7. Can it be that they focused on their own "faith" and not on God?
8. Do you think that is also the reason why we so often fail? We concentrate on our "faith" and not on God?

Day: 5

Read: Matthew 17: 22-23

1. Do you also sometimes wonder about God's characteristics, such as His omnipresence and His omniscience?
2. These two verses show us that Jesus knew what was going to happen and that He was going to rise again on the third day.
3. This time His disciples accept it, even though they are sad. Why do you think that is?
4. Do you think it shows us that to believe not necessarily means that we have to understand everything?

Day: 6

Read: Matthew 17: 24-27

1. Do you think these verses describe more than only another miracle?
2. Could it be that Jesus is showing us how we should do as He did and live the gospel in our daily lives?
3. What is another thing that Jesus is making clear in His conversation with Peter?
4. Do you think His willingness to pay the tax illustrates to us that we also should try not to give offense, even if we are actually in the right, if it is not necessary?

Day: 7

Read: Matthew: 18: 1-5

1. Did you ever wonder if there is a place for you in heaven?
2. Why do you think that was not enough for His disciples?
3. Why do you think they were worried about their "rank" in heaven?
4. Do you think this could be a breeding ground for jealousy and envy?
5. Can you formulate Jesus' answer as He gives it in verse 3, 4 and 5?
6. Would you say that the main point is that we have to change drastically in our way of thinking?