

Bible Study, Matthew, Week 4

Day: 1

Read: Matthew 7: 1-12

For today the theme is God's grace. In Afrikaans we have a book that basically says: "God Farms With Grace." Whether it means something to you or not I do not know. We come from basically generations of farmers in this country and for us everything "good" still comes from the land and that is why it is meaningful to us.

1. Why do you think Jesus starts by telling us of God's grace before He tells us to do the same to others?
2. Do we really treat others the way we would like to be treated?
3. Explain your answer.

Day: 2

Read: Matthew 7: 7-12

When the relationship between parents and their children are good, a child will feel safe to keep on asking for, say a pet, even if his parents refuse at first. The child is not afraid to ask and the parents may even later on decide to give in because having a pet can do the child no harm. They may even say yes because the relationship is so good and child is not afraid to ask.

1. Do you think this tells us something about prayer?
2. Do you think the example Jesus gives may imply such a relationship?
3. Do you think this is the kind of relationship we should have with God as our Father?
4. Do you think it also tells us something about persevering in prayer even if it at first does not seem as if God is hearing us?
5. Can we go to God as a loving Father or do we have to beg in fear and humiliation?
6. Do you think there is ever a time when God does not answer our prayers?
7. Is it possible that God may say "no" sometimes because He knows, in His almighty wisdom, that "yes" will not be good for us?
8. Should that stop us from praying?

Day: 3

Read: Matthew 7: 13-14

We all know about the book called "The Road Less Traveled" According to this book everyone has to choose their road for life. Most choose the easy road rather than the more

difficult one. The end result, though, is that those who choose the more difficult road accomplish more in their lives.

Here Jesus is using a similar example.

1. What are the two roads He is speaking about here?
2. Which is the easy road?
3. Why is it easy?
4. Which is the more difficult road?
5. Why is this one considered difficult?
6. Do you think obedience is important on the narrow road?
7. Do you think The Holy Spirit helps us on this road and makes it possible for us to keep on it?

Day: 4

Read: Matthew 7: 15-20

We all know about all the so-called "spies" in the world, as we see so many in movies that pretend to be someone they are not. In this piece Jesus warn us against such spiritual "pretenders" who pretend to be someone they are not.

1. Why do you think these spiritual "pretenders" are so successful most of the time?
2. What do you think these people want to accomplish by their acts?
3. How do you think we can distinguish such "pretenders" in real life?
4. How does Jesus say we should distinguish such "pretenders?"
5. Do you think The Holy Spirit helps us to see who the pretenders are and who is sincere?

Day: 5

Read: Matthew 7: 21-23

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1. Here Jesus is speaking about people pretending to be something they are not.
2. Do you think everyone that speaks about God and heaven really belongs to God?
3. Is Jesus more interested in how we live than in what we say?
4. Is it possible to be very religious without having any relationship with God?
5. Do you think that because we are free we can live our faith?
6. Do you think we need a special relationship with Him to be able to live a life of gratitude and obey Him because we love Him?

Day: 6

Read: Matthew 7: 24-29

It is not uncommon these days to hear about a building's roof tumbling in because the structure that were supposed to support it was not strong enough. This is the example Jesus uses here and therefore we should understand it very well.

1. Does Jesus mean here that it is very important to stay obedient to His word?
2. What does He mean by this example? What happens when we are not obedient to His words?
3. What does He mean by the people who "build" the right way?
4. Does it help us to remain standing when life's attacks hit us?
5. Do you think it has anything to do with Jesus making us free?
6. Do you think He gives us the strength to remain standing in all circumstances?

Day: 7

Read: Matthew 9: 35-38

When the time for harvesting comes, the big implements are sent into the land to gather the harvest. In the times of Jesus, it was all done by hand though and that is the example He uses here. There are a lot of people looking for a good relationship with God, but someone has to show them how.

1. What are the different things Jesus expects us to do here? Name at least three things that we can do to become involved.
2. Do you think the Holy Spirit will help us to show us what is expected of us personally, in other words to show us exactly what we should do?
3. Do you think God will supply all we need to do it?