

Bible Study, Matthew, Week 7

Day: 1

Read: Matthew 18: 1-35

For today's bible Study, we need to read this whole piece and think about it in the context of a congregation caring for each other. Try and give a practical example each of the situations mentioned in this piece. What is Jesus really saying to us here? Write down your thoughts so you can compare it to what you find in the rest of the week's Bible Studies.

Day: 2

Read: Matthew 18: 15-20

1. Start by reading Matthew 18; 15-17 again.
2. Try and think of an example when a friend, employer or stranger acted in the wrong way towards you. How did you react to it?
3. What was your attitude?
4. Name the three steps we have to take, one after the other, in such a case as Jesus explains it to us in these verses.
5. Do you think the main point is that there should be peace and reconciliation so that there can be harmony amongst Christians?
6. Could it be that your actions were the opposite?
7. Did you develop an attitude of hate and resentment?
8. Do you think Jesus' advice to try and work for a reconciliation would have helped?
9. Read verse 18 now.
10. Here we see the great responsibility of the church to always base its actions on the Bible and to make sure it really looks for the real meaning of the Bible before making any decisions.
11. Now read verse 19 and 20.
12. Jesus is with us. If Christians really agree it means more than when thousands agree on something in a superficial way because Christ is with us.

Day: 3

Read: Matthew 18: 21-35

1. How many times do you think Jesus really meant that we are supposed to forgive someone that is really sorry about what they did?
2. How far are you willing to go with your forgiveness?
3. How do you think things were in those days?
4. What were done to people that had debt they could not pay?
5. Does this tell us something about the magnitude of grace?
6. Can we expect it if we are not willing to forgive others?

Day: 4

Read: Matthew 19: 1-12

1. Think about John and what happened to him because of what he said about marriage and divorce in public.
2. Now they want Jesus to fall into the same trap.
3. What are the two groups and the two different ways of looking at this as it is mentioned here?
4. Read Deut. 24; 1-4 again to see what it is all about and where it originated
5. Why do you think divorce became necessary?
6. Why is it that Moses said a man cannot simply send his wife away he has to give her a letter of divorce?
7. Could it have been to protect the wife?
8. Could it have been a step to make a man think twice before divorcing his wife?
9. What are the reasons for not marrying as Paul discusses it in 1 Corinthians 7?

Day: 5

Read: Matthew 13-15

Also read Matthew 18: 1-5 again.

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted the little children to come to Him?
2. What was the big difference between the children and the spiritual leader of that time?
3. Do you think He meant only the children will go to heaven, or do you think He was saying something about our attitude?
4. What does this mean for our practical living or our testimony?
5. Do you think it is the attitude of a child to accept the gospel in humility and as it is, that we must have?
6. Do you think that all our arguments about the gospel is keeping us from simply accepting it?
7. How can we give our belief in Jesus practical possibilities to spread the gospel?

Day: 6

Read: Matthew 19: 16-22

1. The main question here is, what is there that are standing between you and God?
2. Do you think there is a reason why Jesus tells the young man to keep the commandments and then He names all those that is about our relationship with our neighbours?
3. Do you think it is possible that his money was the young man's "god?"
4. How are we supposed to handle the money God gives us?
5. Do you think we should be willing to give it all up if God asks it of us?

Day: 7

Read Matthew 19: 23-30

1. Do you think it is possible that Jesus used this example of the camel to make us aware of how often rich people cling to their riches and think they are independent of God?
2. We have to be aware that we have to look to God and depend on Him and not our worldly goods.
3. On whom do you really depend in times of trouble?
4. The reward we get for our trust in God, our faith and what we sacrificed for God is not some worldly reward, our reward is in heaven.
5. Do you think everyone can always understand why “good” people are not always rich and why “bad” people seem to prosper?
6. Do you think Jesus is answering this question for us?
7. Many that are first will be last and many that are last will be first!