

## **Bible Study, Matthew, Week 3**

### **Day: 1**

*Read: Matthew 6: 5-15*

1. How do you think the verses we read on the last day of the previous week is a preparations for verse 5-15?
2. Try and name and explain all the similarities.
3. When we read this, it may be difficult to understand when Jesus says we should not use a lot of words and "babble" when we pray. Does it mean we should not spend a lot of time in prayer and only pray this example of the perfect prayer?
4. If you do not think so, try and find out what it is Jesus is really saying to us here.
5. What is the real message here?
6. Why do you think the prayer is followed by verse 14 and 15?
7. What can you personally take from today's lesson?
8. Do you think it all may be about the "realness" of our faith?

### **Day: 2**

*Read: Matthew 6: 16-18*

1. Do we still get those who keep to outward "doing things" as a proof of faith?
2. Do you think there are still a lot of people who do these things, like preaching on corners and making a big show of praying in public, only to be seen?
3. What do you think it was that really were the problem for Jesus with the Jewish leaders and all the religious rituals that were so important to them?
4. Why do you think He freed us from all that?
5. What is it that is really important to Him?
6. Do you think our relationship with God is more important than any outward religious ceremonies and rituals?
7. What do you think we should go and tell the people?
8. What should you say is the most important, keeping rituals or a true relationship with Christ?
9. Does this mean there is no place for any religious ceremonies in the modern church or should it all be seen in perspective?
10. Can keeping the usual Christian ceremonies, such as Holy Communion, strengthen our faith?
11. Should it be a personal experience?
12. Do you think this is what Jesus meant?

### **Day: 3**

*Read: Matthew 6: 19-21*

Where is your banking account?

In South Africa we have the well know story of a wealthy farmer that was dying. Minutes before he died he asked his sons to send his herd of cattle past his bedroom window. With a lot of pride he said "that is all mine" and then he died and the cattle remained behind. It is something of this kind that Jesus is discussing here.

1. Now that Jesus has spoken about the wrong religious attitudes he is now moving on to the wrong attitude toward financial matters.
2. He teaches us that we should not make our earthly property our main goal in life.
3. Why do you think is it that He wants us to concentrate on eternity?
4. Do you think he wants to free us from our earthly sorrows?
5. Why do you think this is good news?
6. Do you think it frees us from worries about stock markets and interests that eat away at our money?
7. Do you think concentrating on the life to come makes today's problems easier to bear?
8. What do we have to look forward to?

#### **Day: 4**

*Read: Mathew 22-23*

What are the spectacles you are looking through?

We all know how someone with bad sight has to wear glasses or spectacles to be able to see properly and how blind people have to have a guide dog. So using our sight as an example is one we can understand very well.

1. Why do you think Jesus used the eye as an example for a spiritual message?
2. Do you think our "spiritual eye" should make it possible for us to see what God's plan is for our life here on earth?
3. Do you think our ability to "see" can be influenced by our own needs?
4. Do you think we can be able to "see" clearly what God wants from us if we do not look at our own life for guidance but toward God?
5. This is the good news, God made it possible for us to walk a different path than that of sin that lets us make destructive choices.
6. Do you think we can avoid the destruction if we keep our spiritual "eyes" focused on God?
7. Do you think the Holy Spirit can lead us to walk the path with Jesus?

#### **Day: 5**

*Read: Matthew 6: 24*

We all know that in everyday life, sports fans have only one team they support. There is no way you will support more than one team at a time. Jesus is using this principle and He applies it to the spiritual life.

1. Do you think we still have to make this decision who we are going to serve today?
2. We all know materialism is the cause for many making the wrong choice, but do you think there are other things as well?
3. Jesus came to free us from this hold things here on earth has on us. Do you think we lose this peace when we cling to the earthly things that are important to us?
4. Do you think that when we consider God more important than anything else it frees us from our fear of losing everything?
5. Is it possible to live in thankfulness while we suffer here on earth?

### **Day: 6**

*Read: Matthew 6: 25-34*

1. Is it true that most of things we worry about never even happen?
2. Why do you think it is so bad for us to worry?
3. Do you think it is possible to stay positive even if things are really going very bad?
4. What makes it possible for us to stay positive even when we have really big problems?
5. Is it possible to learn to give ourselves over to God, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and to learn worry less over the everyday problems we have?
6. Is it possible to live triumphantly every day despite everything else?

### **Day: 7**

*Read: Matthew 7: 1-6*

1. Do you think we are really able to examine ourselves and our way of doing and thinking?
2. Why do you think we always think the other person was in the wrong and not us?
3. Jesus teaches us to examine ourselves instead of always looking at the other person.
4. Do you think that the things that irritate us the most in others often are the things in ourselves that we do not like?
5. This is why we have to look at ourselves before we criticize others.
6. Jesus freed us from our self-righteousness and made it possible for us to truly see the good in others and to see them as made in the "image" of God.
7. Do you think that is why our attitude has to change and we have to take the love of Jesus to them?
8. We have to allow the Holy Spirit to show us the good in others and then we will see the good in them and stop criticizing them.
9. Do you think we can do it on our own?

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