



TERMS 1 & 2

THE
AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLE

MATTHEW 5-7

PART 2

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP

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STUDY TEN: "How To Put Enemies In Their Place" Matthew 5:43-48

1/ Getting Started

Think about who has hurt or mistreated you. What did you feel like doing in response? Why? Discuss.

2/ Turning To The Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 5:43-48. What were people in Jesus' time being taught from verse 43?

- (b) From verse 44, what two things does Jesus tell his followers they are to do to "enemies"?

- (c) From verses 45 to 47, what reasons does Jesus give for these instructions?
 - (i) v45

 - (ii) v46

 - (iii) v47

- (d) What do you think Jesus is urging his disciples to seek in verse 48? (See also 5:9, 5:16)

3/ Drawing Things Together

- (a) In what way was Jesus himself an example of what he is teaching here. (See for example, Luke 23:32-34)
- (b) So, in what practical ways could you put Jesus' teaching into practice? Discuss.

4/ If You Have Time

Does Jesus' teaching here mean that Christians cannot fight in wars? Why or why not?

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY ELEVEN: Theatrical Giving

Matthew 6:1-4

1/ Getting Started

- (a) When was the last time you saw someone doing something to impress someone else? How did you feel? Why do you think?

- (b) Can you think of individuals or companies who give to charity in a public way? Discuss any examples.

2/ Turning To The Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 6:1-4. What ideas come to mind when you read the description of the "hypocrites" in verse 2?

- (b) What is their motive for giving to (and generally serving) those in need?

- (c) What do they get as a reward? (v2)

- (d) What will they not receive?

- (e) What do you think Jesus means (v3) when he says "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing"?

- (f) Why is the principle Jesus teaches in verse 3 so important? (v4)

- (g) In verse 1 and verse 4, Jesus speaks of "reward from your Father in heaven". What do you think Jesus means here?

3/ Getting Personal

- (a) In what situations are you tempted to be hypocritical in your giving?

- (b) What practical steps could you take, to stop yourself becoming hypocritical in giving?

4/ If You Have Time

- (a) Some people say that we should give to others in need, should do good, because it is "right", not in order to get rewards. What do you think?

- (b) Consider the place of giving and rewards in the following passages:
 - (i) John 5:44

 - (ii) Hebrews 11:6

 - (iii) Matthew 10:42

 - (iv) Matthew 25:35-45

 - (v) James 1:27

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY TWELVE: Powerful Prayer

Matthew 6:5-18

1/ Getting Started

(a) Religions around our world have a great variety of “rules for prayer”. If you have experienced some of these, discuss what struck you and why.

(b) *(If you had no personal experiences to share...)*
Islam requires Muslims to pray 5 times each day. Look up on the internet what is required. Discuss the main ideas.

2/ Turning to the Bible

(a) Read Matthew 6:5-8. What two things did the hypocrites of Jesus time get wrong in their praying?

(i) v5

(ii) v7

(b) In what two ways should Jesus' disciples praying be different from that of the hypocrites?

(i) v6

(ii) v7-8

(c) Why do you think Jesus teaches this to his disciples? What "result" does Jesus assure us of? (v6, v8)

(d) Having taught that we should not "babble", Jesus then gives us a model for praying, Read verses 9 to 13. List, in your own words, each of the requests in this prayer.

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

(iv)

(v)

(vi)

(e) How does this list differ from what you normally pray for, 'personally'?

(f) How does this list differ from what you normally pray for, in your small Group meetings?

3/ Getting Personal

(a) What changes might you need to make, in your prayers?

(b) Discuss practical steps you could take, to make sure these changes happen.

(c) Spend time praying together, using verses 9 to 13 as a model.

4/ If you have time

(a) Read verses 14 to 15. What assurance and warning does Jesus give here? Why, do you think?

(b) Read verses 16 to 18. What principle does Jesus again teach, in these verses? Jews were required to fast on special occasions.

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY THIRTEEN : Treasure that Lasts Matthew 6:19-24

1/ Getting Started

- (a) Most of us have some hopes or ambitions. If you had to write a "bucket list" of things to do before you die, what would you include? Discuss

- (b) What other ambitions do you have? If older, maybe unfulfilled hopes?

2/ Turning to the Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 6:19-24. Why, according to Jesus, is it better to store up treasure in heaven, than on earth?

- (b) Speaking practically, how might a person store up "treasure in heaven"? (see e.g. 5:12, 5:46, 6:4, 6:6 etc)

- (c) In verses 22 and 23, Jesus uses a metaphor that seems to have been commonly used at the time. A “bad eye” referred to someone who is selfish and ‘stingy’ with money. How is this image linked to verse 21? (Connecting “heart” and “eye”)
- (d) What are the results of having a “good” or “bad” eye, here?
- (e) In verse 24, Jesus contrasts two ‘masters’. What are they?
- (f) Why is it not possible to serve both, do you think? Explain, in practical terms?

3/ Getting Personal

- (a) Where would you say your “treasure” is?

- (b) How does this shape the way you live? Discuss.

- (c) How can we help each other to “store up treasure in heaven”?

- (d) Does Jesus’ instruction here mean that we should not have investments, insurance policies, savings etc? Why or why not?

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY FOURTEEN: The Joy of Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

1/ Getting Started

- (a) What causes you the most anxiety, or worry, at present? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 6:25-34. What does Jesus tell his disciples not to worry about? List these things.

- (b) What reasons does Jesus give for not being anxious or worried about these things?

- (c) How does worry reveal a lack of faith? (v30)

- (d) Give examples of how people today “run after all these things” (v31)
- (e) What do you think Jesus means when he says to “seek first his Kingdom”. Give examples to illustrate your understanding.
- (f) What does “God’s righteousness” refer to? (see 5:6, 10, 20 then 6:1, for example)

3/ Getting Personal

- (a) What practical steps could you take, to help you worry less about “this life”? Discuss
- (b) How can we help each other to be more focused on seeking “his kingdom and his righteousness”? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY FIFTEEN : Judge Not?

Matthew 7:1 - 6

1/ Getting started

(a) Have you ever been condemned or judged by someone else? How did they show this attitude, in their words or actions?

(b) How did this make you feel about them? How did it make you feel about yourself? Why?

2/ Turning to the Bible

(a) Read Matthew 7:1-6. Why, according to Jesus, is it unwise to judge or condemn others? (v1-2)

(b) In what way are we often unfit to take God's place as judge? (v3-4)

- (c) What steps must we take before we can truly help a brother or sister in Christ (v5)

- (d) How can we then truly help them? Discuss.

- (e) What kinds of people might be “dogs” or “pigs”? (v6)
(See chapter 23, for example)

- (f) In what way might such people be dangerous? (v6) Discuss.

Drawing Things Together

- (a) How can we help one another not to be “judgmental”?
Discuss

- (b) When do we need to be “discerning”? What practical situations do we face, that requires this? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY SIXTEEN: Getting Good Gifts

Matthew 7:7-12

1/ Getting started

- (a) Have you ever felt that praying is a waste of time? What made you feel that way? Discuss.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 7:7-11. What encouragement to pray does Jesus give in verses 7 and 8?

- (b) From Verses 9 to 11, what comparison does Jesus draw between us and our heavenly Father?

- (c) How does this comparison give us confidence when we pray?

(d) What sort of “good gifts” do you think Jesus has in mind? (v11)

3/ Drawing things together

(a) How can we help each other to take Jesus’ promises in these verses seriously?

(b) Have you ever asked God for something, yet not received it? If so, why do you think God did not give you what you asked?

4/ If you have time

(a) Read Matthew 7:12. How does this instruction sum up the Old Testament, do you think?

(b) Think of a "strained" relationship you have at present. How could this instruction be applied, in that relationship?

PRAYER POINTS

1/ Getting started

(a) Have you ever been given wrong directions by someone? What was the result? How did you feel?

(b) Who is offering moral or spiritual “direction” to you, and to those around you, on the Northern Beaches? How do they do this?

2/ Turning to the Bible.

(a) Read Matthew 7:13-23. How are the two gates mentioned in verses 13 and 14 different?

- (b) In what sense is the gate "to life" small, do you think?
- (c) What does Jesus tell his followers to "watch out" for, in verse 15?
- (d) Following verses 13 and 14, why might "false prophets" or "false teachers" be dangerous?
- (e) From verses 16 to 20, how are we to recognise false teachers? (See also chapter 5:20 e.g.)

(f) From verse 15, and verses 21 to 23, what “disguises ” might make it difficult to recognise false prophets or teachers?

(g) In what sense might false prophets be like “ferocious wolves”?
(v15)

3/ Drawing things together

(a) How can we help each other to enter through “the narrow gate” to life? Discuss.

(b) How can we help each other not to be deceived by false teachers? Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

STUDY EIGHTEEN: Surviving the Storm

Matthew 7:24-29

1/ Getting started

- (a) Why do many people imitate celebrities, do you think? Discuss examples you have seen.

2/ Turning to the Bible

- (a) Read Matthew 7:24-29. What do the two groups of people described in verses 24 to 27 have in common? (v24 and v26)

- (b) What is the key difference between what each group does?

- (c) What is the final result for each?

(d) What kind of “storm” might test Jesus’ followers, do you think? Discuss.

(e) What do the crowds recognize about Jesus?

3/ Drawing Things Together

(a) How can we help each other to “build on the rock”? Discuss.

(b) Share one or two key things that have helped or challenged you, as you have studied the Sermon on the Mount.

(c) Pray about putting these things into practice.

PRAYER POINTS

