

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share with one another what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will first explain how to have a quiet time. Then we will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM MATTHEW 1:1 to 4:11.

(S) **POINT 1. HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME AND SHARE**

Have a time of fellowship with God or quiet time every day of the week from one of the seven assigned Bible passages. An easy quiet time method is called "The favourite truth" method. It has 5 steps. Step 1. Pray and ask God to speak to you. Step 2. Read one of the seven assigned passages. Step 3. Choose your favourite truth. It is the truth, verse or passage through which God is speaking to you, stimulating your thinking or touching your heart. Step 4. Meditate on your favourite truth. Meditate by doing the following four things. First. *Think* about the meaning of words. Second. *Ask* God what he intends to say to you. Third. *Relate* your favourite truth to your life by making a practical application. Fourth. *Write* the most important thoughts of your meditation in a notebook so that you may share them with others. Step 5. Pray your favourite truth for yourself. Then pray your favourite truth for someone in your family. Then pray your favourite truth for someone nearby. And finally, pray your favourite truth for someone far away. When you meet together with one friend or with other Christians in a house fellowship or discipleship group, take turns to share the meditation of one of your quiet times. You may also try to answer some questions from the assigned passages.

(T) **POINT 2. SHARING FROM MATTHEW 1:1 - 4:11**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Matthew 1:1 - 4:11. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

**Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 1**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 1:1 about the genealogy of Jesus. It says, "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham." What is the significance of the family tree of Jesus? Matthew writes this Gospel especially to the Jews. Therefore he often uses the Old Testament. He begins with God's promises to Abraham and David, two fathers of the nation. Two thousand years before Christ, God promised to Abraham, "In your *descendant* (singular), all the families of the earth will be blessed." Matthew's family tree shows that Jesus is the fulfilment of that promise. Through Jesus, God has begun to bless all the families of the earth. One thousand years before Christ, God promised to David, "I will raise up to you a *king* who will do what is just and right." Matthew's family tree shows that Jesus is the fulfilment of that promise. Through Jesus, God has begun to set up an everlasting kingdom in which only righteousness dwells. The Gospel of Matthew tells me how these promises are being fulfilled.

The family tree also shows that God is in control of the history of this world. Throughout all these generations there were many difficulties, wars and enemies who tried to destroy the family tree of Jesus. But God's plan did not fail and could not fail! No one could stop God's plan of saving people through Jesus. The family tree of Jesus shows that God controls the history of this world. In the same way God controls the history of this present world and also my personal history!

(T) I want to share from Matthew 1:21-23 about the names of Jesus Christ. Seven hundred years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that in the future a wonderful person was going to be born and his name would be called "Immanuel", which means "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). This wonderful person would be God himself who would take on the human nature and reveal himself to us in this human being (Isaiah 9:6-7). God would live among us as a human being. This wonderful person would be named "Jesus", which means, "He will save his people from their sins." When I read the Bible, I can see how Jesus is this wonderful person called "Immanuel." Because Jesus came to live with the sick people in order to heal them. He came to live with the demon-possessed people in order to set them free. He came to live with the poor in spirit in order to bless them. He came to live with the lost in order to seek and to save them! Jesus is "God with us!" The more I get to know Jesus, the more I get to know God!

(S) I want to share from Matthew 1:24 about Joseph. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel commanded. He took Mary home as his wife, but he had no union with her until Jesus was born. It must have

been very embarrassing for Joseph to find out that Mary was expecting a child. What would people say? But after God had explained to Joseph that the Holy Spirit had created the human nature of this child in the virgin Mary, he trusted and obeyed God in spite of what people said. I want to commit myself to trust and obey God no matter what other people say.

### **Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 2.**

(T) I want to share about king Herod. Herod was the king during the time Jesus was born. When Herod heard from the wise men that another king was born, he was very disturbed. He devised a plan to kill this new king. He told the wise men that he also wanted to worship this new king, but in his heart he planned to kill Jesus. Herod worked on the side of Satan, the enemy of God and the enemy of all God's people. What I learn from king Herod is that every time God starts something good, Satan tries to destroy it! Satan will use anyone who is willing to be his ally. But I also learned that Satan failed! Although he killed many others, he could not stop God's plan to work through Jesus!

(S) I want to share about the value of prophecies. About 700 years before Christ, the prophet Micah prophesied exactly where Jesus would be born! Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Other prophets prophesied hundreds of years before Jesus came that Jesus would have the divine nature, that he would also have the human nature and be born from a virgin, that his task would be to die for the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:5) and that he would rise again from the dead (Psalm 16:9-11). More than 60 prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament were literally fulfilled! This tells me that God knows everything about the future and does things exactly as he had said in the past. Fulfilled prophecies give me great confidence to believe that the Bible is God's inspired holy word.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 2:1-2 about the wise men from the East. Who were the wise men from the East who came to worship Jesus at his birth? These wise men probably came from ancient Persia and Babylonia, which are modern Iran and Iraq. In the Old Testament we read how the Israelites were disobedient to God. God punished the nation by sending them into exile to Babylonia. Among the disobedient exiles were also obedient followers of God, like the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel. Ezekiel spoke God's words to the Israelites, but Daniel spoke God's words to the Babylonians and the Persians. In this way, the people living in the East heard about the Living God and also heard the prophecy that one day a wonderful king would be born. Thus, when God spoke to them by means of the star, they followed the star to the place where Jesus was born. This star was a real star, because the wise men could see it with their eyes. But this star did not behave like an ordinary star. Ordinary stars move from the East to the West, but this star behaved supernaturally. It first moved from the East to the West and then from the North to the South! And then it stood still above the place where Jesus was born! Only God can make a star behave like this. Ordinary stars can show us directions for travelling, but they cannot guide us to auspicious days or tell us anything about our personality or the future events of our life. Christians should therefore not consult horoscopes and not participate in astrology. Ordinary stars never lead people to Jesus, but this star led people to Jesus!

### **Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 3.**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 3:2 about repentance. It says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." I thought about the meaning of "repentance". When I repent, I must first look backwards and then look forwards. First, I must look backwards and feel sorry for my sin and make a genuine decision to break with my past sin. Then, I must look forwards and begin to reform my life. I must begin to change my mind and my habits. I must begin to think the thoughts of Jesus and then obey the words of Jesus.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 3:8-10 about the message of John the Baptist. He said that I only have two choices: I must repent and start to bear fruit in keeping with repentance or I will be chopped off and thrown into the fire! If I accept what Jesus says, then my life will be fruitful, but if I reject what Jesus says, then I will be thrown into hell.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 3:11-12 about the meaning of baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The baptism with the Holy Spirit first refers to the Day of Pentecost. After Jesus had died and was resurrected and ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit was poured out on those who believed in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit came to live in their hearts forever, to teach them the truth and to glorify Jesus. The baptism with the Holy Spirit was the coming of the Holy Spirit for the first time into a believer's life and is the same as regeneration (rebirth). 1 Corinthians 12:13 makes it very clear that a person can only become a member of the body of Christ when he is baptised with the Holy Spirit. In this context, the baptism with fire means to be thrown into the fire of hell. Jesus is the crossroad for every human being. Every person who believes in Jesus Christ is baptised with the Holy Spirit. But every person who rejects Jesus Christ will be baptised with fire. Believers will be gathered into

the kingdom of God, but unbelievers will be burned with unquenchable fire. Luke says the same in Luke 2:34, “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against.”

#### **Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 4.**

(T) I want to share from Matthew 4:2-4, about the first temptation of Jesus by the devil. After 40 days of fasting, Jesus was very hungry. The devil challenged Jesus to turn stones into bread. The devil wanted Jesus to *distrust God's* ability to care for his needs. Sometimes I am also tempted not to trust in God, but to trust in people, in circumstances or in money. But Jesus says that I should not trust in people, in circumstances or in material things. I should rather trust in God and God's word. If God created the stars and the earth by just speaking a word, then he can also care for all my material, social and spiritual needs and for every situation of my life by just speaking a word!

(S) I want to share from Matthew 4:5-7, about the second temptation of Jesus by the devil. The devil challenged Jesus to test God and throw himself from the roof of the temple in order to see whether God's angels would really catch him. The devil wanted Jesus to have *a false trust* in God. He wanted Jesus to wrongly trust a promise in the Bible that the devil quoted out of context. He wanted Jesus to prove something good by doing something stupid. He wanted Jesus to prove that God would protect him by throwing himself down a high building. Sometimes I am also tempted to trust God for things I want to happen rather than to trust God for things *God* wants to happen! The temptation of the devil is to bring me to the point of trusting God for the wrong things! Jesus says that this is a false trust in God. For example, when I ask God to heal me from a sickness, but at the same time live an unhealthy lifestyle, then I have a false trust in God. When I pray, “Lord, turn my eyes away from worthless things”, but at the same time watch an immoral or violent video, then I have a false trust in God. When I ask God to save my marriage, but at the same time continue to meet other women on intimate terms, then I have a false trust in God. Jesus says that I should not tempt God by trying out situations in which I have a false trust in God.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 4:8-10, about the third temptation of Jesus by the devil. The devil challenged Jesus to bow down before him and worship him. Then the devil promised that he would give to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world as well as their splendour and in this way Jesus would be the king of the world. The devil wanted Jesus to *trust the devil* instead of to trust God. The devil wanted Jesus to take a short cut to glory and obtain the crown of all the kingdoms of the world without enduring the cross. The devil pretended that all the kingdoms of the world belonged to him and that he could give it to whomever he wanted. But the devil is a liar. He does not own any kingdom in the world. He cannot give away what he does not have. The owner and sovereign ruler over the whole world is God. Today many people believe in the lies of their political and religious leaders. They believe in the lies that are spread in their mass media like newspapers, magazines, radio and TV. And they believe in the lies that are taught by their teachers. Jesus says that the devil is “the father of all lies” (John 8:44). The devil is trying very hard to make people trust in anything except to trust in the Living God and his words. The real desire of the devil is that people worship him instead of the Living God. Jesus says that I should only worship God – the God who revealed himself in the Bible and through Jesus Christ.

#### **(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Divide Matthew 4:12 to 7:29 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on [www. etc](http://www.etc)

Third. Listen on short wave radio from SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.