

(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 4:12 – 7:29.

(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 4:12 – 7:29**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Matthew 4:12 – 7:29. 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 4.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 4:19-20 about fishers of men. Jesus says, “Come to me and I will make you fishers of men.” Jesus calls people to himself not only to save them from their sins, but also to give them a very meaningful task. The followers of Jesus will become “fishers of men”. They will tell people about Jesus and then these people will also want to follow Jesus.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 5.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 5:3 about the poor in spirit. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus teaches the characteristics of the citizens of God's kingdom. They are characterised by being poor in spirit. I have often wondered what this means. To be poor in the spirit is not the same as being poor in material things. It means to be poor in spiritual things, to be poor in the things of God, like God's love, God's righteousness and God's humility. It means that I realise that I need God's power and wisdom to solve my problems or improve myself. It means that I admit that I need God in everything. I desire to be really poor in spirit. I want to be dependent on God in every situation and expect every good thing from him.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 5:13 about the salt of the earth. Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth”. I thought about the functions of salt. People use salt to season food, to preserve meat against decay, and to clean wounds. Therefore, if Christians are the salt of the earth, then Christians fight against moral and spiritual decay in the world. Everywhere in the world there are people who read pornography, watch sex videos, tell lies, oppress the weak, are corrupt in politics or cheat in business. But also everywhere in the world there are Christians, who by their honest and clean life-style and their teaching of the truth fight against the moral and spiritual decay of their own society. Jesus thus says that I am a very important person in my society when I fight against moral corruption and spiritual decay. My desire is to be the salt of my society.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 5:17 about Jesus upholding the law. During the days of Jesus, the Jewish teachers had distorted the meaning of the law beyond recognition by adding many of their own man-made laws to God's law. The Pharisees put a yoke on the shoulders of people that consisted of 613 rules, of which 365 were prohibitions and 248 were commands. They moreover made the keeping of the law a condition for salvation or entering paradise. Both Jesus as well as Paul rejected the Pharisees' view and use of the law. Jesus upholds the law as God originally intended it. In Matthew 5:17 Jesus says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.” Jesus then proceeds to teach how these commandments should be properly understood and how they should be properly applied in the New Testament time. For example, in Matthew 5:21-26 he explains the sixth commandment, “Do not murder.” The correct understanding and application is not limited to the killing of life, but also includes the killing of somebody's feelings and reputation by anger. In Matthew 5:27-30 he explains the seventh commandment, “Do not commit adultery.” Again the correct understanding and application is not limited to being caught in the act of sexual immorality, but includes inner thoughts and imaginations about sexual immorality.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 5:23-24 about reconciliation. Jesus says that when you are offering your gift to God and there remember that your brother is holding something against you, then first go and be reconciled to your brother. Jesus is saying to me that reconciling a broken relationship is more important than giving a gift to God. Before, I used to think that the person, who wronged me, should take the initiative to say to me "I am sorry", "please forgive me". But here Jesus says, that it does not matter who is wrong in a broken relationship. What really matters is that the broken relationship is healed. Therefore, if somebody accuses me of being wrong, then I want to take the initiative to go to him and be reconciled to him.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 5:37 about honesty. Jesus says, Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no". Anything beyond this comes from the devil. I like this verse, because it shows that Jesus hates lies and empty promises. In the Old Testament God says that he will judge people who "call evil things good and good things evil" and who "change darkness for light and light for darkness" (Isaiah 5:20). God never changes the meaning of his words and he also never changes his values and standards. When God says that something is "evil", it is always "evil" and everywhere "evil". When God says that he will do something, then I can be very sure that God will do it! That is why Jesus wants me to mean what I say, and to do what I promise.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 6.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 6:9 about calling God "our Father, who is in heaven". Christians may call God their "Father". God is never a *physical* Father, but always a *spiritual* Father to his own children! He is a living Father, who really sees me, hears my prayers, speaks to me and saves me! Some people worship idols. They have to go to the temple, because their gods cannot walk to them. These idols have eyes, but cannot see; ears, but cannot hear; mouths, but cannot speak; and hands, but cannot help. Idols are dead, but my Father in heaven is alive! Other people worship a "god" whom some religious leader has devised. They never have a personal and intimate relationship with their god, because they made him so high and transcendent that no one can relate to him. Gods that are devised by humans are also dead, but my Father in heaven is alive! My God is not an earthly father, but a heavenly Father! Many fathers on earth never speak to their children except when they give a command to them. Many fathers on earth never love and hug their children and never become their friends. But my heavenly Father loves me, accepts me and longs to be with me. He desires to speak to me and he patiently listens to me. He helps me and he saves me. Many fathers on earth are unfaithful to their one wife and have more than one wife or concubine. They set a bad example for their children. But my Father in heaven is always faithful and the best example for me. My heavenly Father is a thousand times better than any father on earth. He is the model of what a real father on earth should be. The day I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour, God became my heavenly Father!

(T) I want to share from Matthew 6:9-13 about the Lord's Prayer. This is a wonderful prayer. Jesus gave it to us as an example of how we should pray. Jesus teaches me, that when I pray, I should first direct my prayer to God himself and pray about his name, his kingdom and his will. After that, I may direct my prayer to myself and pray about my material needs, my spiritual needs and my struggle in this world. My desire is to learn to pray like this. First I want to pray about God's interests. And then I want to pray about my own interests. This morning I prayed this prayer: "Dear Father in heaven, I praise you that you love me, saved me from my sins and healed my sickness yesterday. May my friend at my working place begin to understand the Gospel and accept you as King of his life. Help me to understand the chapter in the Bible I read today and make me willing to do your will. In Jesus' name. Amen!"

(S) I have a question from Matthew 6:13 about temptations. It says, "Lead us not into temptation." Does God lead people into temptation?

(T) James teaches that God is not like an evil person who tempts people to do sin. God never leads people into temptations. But people are tempted to do the wrong things by their own desires in their heart, by the world around them or by Satan above them. Therefore in our prayers, we ask God to help us to live a holy life. We pray, "Our Father in heaven, do not permit me to enter into situations of temptation. Give me insight to discern what is wrong and the grace to say "no" to the temptation. When we ask God not to lead us into temptation, we ask him not to permit us to say "yes" to temptation.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 7.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 7:1 about judging others. It says, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." Does this mean that I may never say to someone that he is wrong? No. Jesus himself judged people. He said to the Pharisees that they were like "white plastered gravestones: on the outside they looked beautiful, but on the inside they were full of dead bones" (Matthew 23:27). Jesus judged them truthfully. They were hypocritical and pretended to be very religious, while in their hearts they loved money, lusted after women and even murdered people. Jesus wanted them to recognise their hypocrisy. Therefore, when Jesus says that I should not judge, then he means that I should not judge people in a hypocritical and loveless way. Jesus wants me to discriminate between what is wrong and what is right. And when I judge somebody, then I must first make sure that I am not guilty of doing the same wrong thing.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 7:6 about dogs and pigs. Jesus says, "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to the pigs." What are sacred things and who are the dogs? "Dogs" often prowl around streets and rubbish heaps. They tear things into pieces. "Pigs" on a farm often trample their own food under their feet. Likewise, there are people who behave like dogs and pigs. When you tell them the Gospel, they despise it. When you talk about God's word, they tear it to pieces with criticism. When you show them mercy and love, they reject it. When you give them a responsibility, they trample it under their feet. Therefore, Jesus teaches me not to stay in a place where people keep on rejecting my preaching and teaching. Jesus also teaches me not to give responsibilities in the church to people who are unqualified. Such people will only destroy what you give to them.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 7:13-14 about the two gates and the two ways. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus showed the attraction and the difficulties of being a citizen of God's kingdom. On the one hand, citizens of God's kingdom will be comforted, inherit the earth, be satisfied, have prayers answered, etc. On the other hand, they will be persecuted, insulted, slandered and will have to fight against their natural tendencies to be hypocritical, unforgiving, worried about material things and judgmental.

Jesus challenges everyone who hears these words to enter into the narrow gate to God's kingdom. Jesus calls all people to believe and repent! When people believe and repent, they enter the narrow gate to God's kingdom. After people have entered the narrow gate, Jesus urges believers to walk on the narrow road of God's kingdom. He commands them to live a holy life within the boundaries that God sets! The wide gate represents the wrong initial choice and the broad road represents a life where people do what they please. That road leads to destruction and finally to hell. The way in which you live your life is always determined by the choice you make in the beginning of your life. It is important to notice that Jesus does not say that you must take a narrow road that leads to a narrow gate, but that you must enter the narrow gate in order to walk on the narrow road! There is only one narrow gate and that is Jesus Christ himself. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the Way. ... No one comes to the Father than by me".

(T) **ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Divide Matthew 8:1 to 11:24 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".