

(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 11:25 to 14:36.

(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 11:25 - 14:36**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Matthew 11:25 - 14:36. 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 11.**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 11:25 about God hiding his revelation from the wise. Jesus says, "God has hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." Often I have seen that people are proud and think too high of themselves. They prefer to trust their own thinking and judgement. But God hides his revelation from proud people! That is why these people don't know God or understand spiritual things. Because I do not want to miss God's revelation, I want to develop a humble attitude like a child. I want to learn from God, trust and obey God like a child. This Bible verse shows me the importance of my attitude. The right attitude to God is humility, teachability, trust and obedience!

(T) I want to share from Matthew 11:28-30 about the burden and the yoke. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." What is the meaning of "a burden" and "a yoke" in this passage? A literal "yoke" is a wooden frame, which is placed on a person's shoulders in order to make a load easier to carry. A yoke is made to carry burdens.

The Pharisees turned the Law of the Old Testament into a "yoke and burden", by their interpretations of the Law and their human traditions concerning the Law. They burdened the people with 613 prohibitions and commands and required of the people strict obedience to every one of these rules. The common people believed that only when their obedience to all these rules and traditions in their whole life outbalanced their acts of disobedience, could they be saved. So they believed that salvation depended on their own efforts to keep the rules and traditions. This was truly a very heavy yoke and burden to carry all your life!

Now Jesus invites them to drop that yoke and burden, and instead come to him. The yoke of Jesus is the teachings of Jesus. Jesus' teaching is that a person is saved by means of simple trust in Jesus and Jesus' completed work on the cross. As a teacher and leader, I want to be careful not to turn the Gospel into a new Law with hundreds of rules: "Don't do this. Don't do that. Do this. Do that!" It is not the keeping of laws and rules that saves people, but it is receiving and carrying the grace and forgiveness of Jesus that saves. As a teacher and leader I may not put a heavy yoke of rules and laws on people's shoulders, but I should help them to carry the completed work of Jesus.

**Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 12.**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 12:29 about binding the strong man. Jesus says, "How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?" What is the meaning of "tying up the strong man"? The strong man is the devil and his possessions are the bodies and souls of people. Jesus enters the house of the strong man and binds him so that he can rob his possessions. By his incarnation, Jesus enters the territory of the devil and binds the devil, so that he can rob the devil of the power over the bodies and souls of people. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus heals sick bodies, makes the lame walk and drives out demons. By the Holy Spirit, Jesus seeks and saves lost souls. And he gave his disciples authority to do the same. They drove out demons and preached the Gospel. When

all these things happened, Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to.....overcome all the power of the enemy." (Luke 10:17-18).

By his death, Jesus disarmed the evil powers and authorities (Colossians 2:15). When Jesus spoke about his death on the cross for our sins, he said, "Now the prince of the world will be driven out.....and I will draw all men to myself" (John 12:31-32).

By his enthronement in heaven, Jesus hurled Satan and his demons forever out of heaven. When Jesus had ascended into heaven, Satan and his demons stormed after him to pull him from his throne. But the angels of Jesus defeated them and they were hurled back onto the earth. Never would Satan be allowed again to appear in God's presence to accuse people. From this time onwards Christians overcome Satan by depending on the death of Jesus (Revelation 12:5-11). Thus, by his death, resurrection, ascension and enthronement in heaven, Jesus Christ bound the power of the devil, so that believers can overcome the devil and lead many people to Christ. If the devil had not been bound by the death and resurrection of Jesus, then we Christians could not have preached the gospel in the whole world. But the devil has been bound by the death and resurrection of Jesus and therefore we Christians have the power to rob the devil of many bodies and souls he tries to control.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 12:31 about the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, "Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven". What is this sin against the Holy Spirit that will never be forgiven? The sin against the Holy Spirit is to ascribe the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil. The Pharisees committed this sin. They said that Jesus was driving out demons by the biggest demon, the devil. They said that the work of the Holy Spirit was the work of the devil!

But the sin against the Holy Spirit is also to continue to harden your heart against the Holy Spirit. While other people were repenting of their sins and converting to Jesus, the Pharisees hardened their hearts against Jesus, tried to turn other people against Jesus and even plotted to kill Jesus. Because they were unwilling to walk in the way that leads to forgiveness and eternal life, they doomed themselves to eternal hell. That is why the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts!" (Hebrews 3:7-8).

Anyone who truly repents of his sin, will be forgiven, no matter how shameful his sins may have been. For example, God forgave king David's sin of adultery, dishonesty and murder when he repented. Jesus forgave the woman who had lived a sinful life when she repented (Luke 7). The father forgave the prodigal son's sin of riotous living when he repented. Jesus forgave Peter's sin of denying Jesus and cursing when he repented. God forgave Paul's sin of mercilessly persecuting the Christians when he repented. But the person who sins against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

### **Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 13.**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 13 about the parable of the sower. The seed is the word of God. The soil is my heart. But my heart is not always the same. Sometimes my heart is as hard as a path so that I can't understand God's word. Then the devil comes immediately and takes God's Word away, because he is afraid that God's Word will change me. Sometimes my heart is like the rocky soil so that I do not have enough depth to hold on to God's word when difficulties or persecutions come. Then the difficulties cause me to give up God's word. Sometimes my heart is not clean, but full of wrong desires or worries so that God's word cannot grow. Then the desires and worries choke growth and God's word does not bear fruit in my life. That is why from now on I want to be very careful what I do with God's word. Every time I hear, read or study God's word, I want to understand it, I want to hold on to it even during difficult circumstances and I want to keep my heart clean so that God's word can mature and bear fruit in me!

(T) I want to share from Matthew 13 about the parable of the weeds. Jesus helped me to understand why there are differences between Christians. Jesus is the sower of good seed, which is the gospel of the kingdom or message of salvation through repentance and faith. The field is the world. The gospel must be proclaimed in the whole world, to all its people and its institutions. The good seed represents the real Christians who profess Jesus as king. The weeds represent the children of Satan who produce a harvest of corruption. The harvest is only at the end of the age and therefore this condition of good seeds and weeds growing together continues until the Second Coming of Christ. At his Second Coming, Jesus will send his angels and "they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil". (verse 41). While the unrighteous will be thrown in the burning fire of hell, the righteous will shine in the kingdom!

This parable teaches me that the kingdom of God in its present earthly manifestation has two kinds of people in it. The kingdom in its earthly manifestation and the visible Church have in this parable almost the same meaning. Until the Second Coming of Christ, true believers and nominal Christians will dwell together in the visible Church. Until the Second Coming of Christ I must be patient and not expel people from the Church who are not yet believers. But when Christ returns, then he will pluck these nominal Christians out of his kingdom or visible Church. Only true Christians will inherit the new heaven and the new earth! But until the Second Coming, I must proclaim the Gospel, exercise church discipline and welcome non-Christians into the Church.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 13 about the parable of the mustard seed. This parable teaches the outward manifestation of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God has an insignificant beginning, but it grows to have very great results. The kingly rule of Jesus Christ in the hearts of believers will have a saving, preserving and creative influence and will effect every sphere of life in the history of this world. The kingdom of God will influence the arts, science, literature, business, industry, commerce, government, sports, law, education, social life, etc. Already 2 550 years ago, the prophet Daniel prophesied that "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will crush all other kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

(T) I want to share from Matthew 13 about the parable of the yeast. This parable teaches the inward growth of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God begins to exert its influence in the hearts of believers. The invisible principle of eternal life is implanted by the Holy Spirit in the heart of believers. Christ's rule of grace in the hearts of believers steadily, but penetratingly influences every sphere of a believer's life. It brings every thought into submission to Christ and therefore in harmony with the mind of Christ (2 Cor.10:5). It will bring every tongue to acknowledge Christ and every knee will eventually submit to him. That is why Christians promote such causes as the healing of the sick, the abolition of slavery, the restoration of women's rights, the alleviation of poverty, the education of the illiterate, etc. The kingly rule of Jesus Christ in the hearts of Christians promotes honesty among rulers and subjects alike, and also promotes honesty and justice in business, industry, commerce, law, religion, etc.

#### **Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 14**

(S) I want to share from Matthew 14:31 about little faith. Jesus says, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus was walking on the sea and Peter was also walking on the water towards Jesus. Then Peter looked away from Jesus at the waves and started to sink into the water. Jesus reached out to Peter and helped him into the boat. Why does Jesus say that Peter has little faith? I think it is because Peter at that moment forgot the presence, power, promises and love of Jesus. Peter was looking at the difficulty of his circumstances and not at Jesus who could help him in his circumstances, no matter how difficult his circumstances were!

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

First. Divide Matthew 15:1 to 18:20 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".