

(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 18:21 – 21:46.

(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 18:21 – 21:46**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Matthew 18:21 – 21:46. 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 18.

I want to share from Matthew 18:21-35 about the parable of the unmerciful servant. A great king showed his mercy to his subjects by cancelling all their debts. One of his servants, probably a governor of one of his provinces, owed the king 10 000 silver talents! A person had to work for 20 years in order to earn just one silver talent and this servant owed his master 10 000 silver talents! This servant had either failed to collect taxes, or had lost the king's money by gross mismanagement. Nevertheless, it would have been absolutely impossible for this servant to repay his debt to the king! When this servant begged the king to have mercy with him, the king forgave him and cancelled all his debts!

But when this first servant came outside, he met one of his fellow servants that owed him 100 denarii's. A person only had to work for 100 days to earn 100 denarii's. It was a large amount of money, but it was possible to pay his debt. When this fellow servant begged the first servant to have mercy with him, he refused. The first servant grabbed the second servant by the throat and threw him in prison until one of his family members or friends would pay the debt! The king had forgiven the first servant his very large debt, but the first servant refused to forgive the second servant his very small debt! Other servants told the king what had happened and the king became very angry. He called the first servant to give an account of what he had done. The king said, "You wicked servant. I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" In anger the king threw the first servant into jail and ordered that he should be tortured.

Jesus told this parable to teach me a great lesson. I am like the first servant. All the sins in my life are so great that I can never repay my debt to God. I can never repay my debt by being very religious or by trying to keep all the religious laws of my country. The only way that I can be set free is when God is merciful to me and forgives all my sins. God forgives all my sins when I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross in my place. But God also expects me to forgive all the people that have done something wrong against me. God expects me to have mercy on all my debtors. If I refuse to be merciful to any one of my debtors, then God will withdraw his forgiveness and throw me into hell, where I will be tortured forever. God has taught me that becoming a Christian is the greatest privilege, because all my sins will be forgiven! But God also taught me that becoming a Christian is a great responsibility, because I must forgive all the people that do wrong to me.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 19.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 19:4-6 about marriage. The Bible is concerned with the whole man and not only with his soul. The Bible is concerned with a person's marriage and his children. In the beginning God created two different sexes, male and female. His purpose with the sexes was marriage. "Marriage" was not a social invention, but is God's idea and institution.

First. God ordained that when a man is ready for marriage, he should leave his parents and start a new family together with his wife. He should leave his parents *emotionally*. This means that from now on he must love his wife more than his mother and he should always protect his wife against manipulation by his own family or her own family. He should leave his parent's *authority*. This means that while he still honours his parents, he is under no obligation to obey them anymore. Instead, he must obey God in every aspect of his life. He must also leave his parents *financially*. This means that he should separate his finances from his previous family and be responsible to God for what he does with his money.

Second. God ordained that a man should be united to his wife. It does not say, be united to his "wives" in the plural. Marriage is a special relationship between one man and one woman. God's purpose is that during marriage, they will become more and more a unity. They should become one in their relationship to God, one in friendship and one physically. Because God has joined two people together, marriage is not simply a legal relationship that can be broken in a law court, but a divine relationship that is for one's whole life long!

(T) I want to share from Matthew 19:9 about divorce. God instituted marriage as a life-long relationship. The marriage relationship is a reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church. That is why God hates divorce. However, people are sinners and divorces happen even against God's will. The Bible recognises that there are a few circumstances in which a divorce is allowed. Jesus recognises "marital unfaithfulness" as a lawful reason for divorce. The word "marital unfaithfulness" primarily means all kinds of sexual immorality. But it also means "spiritual unfaithfulness" or rebellion against the very essence of the marriage bond, like religious idolatry, criminality or violence in the marriage relationship. In 1 Corinthians 7, Paul recognises the unwillingness of a non-Christian to remain married to a partner that has become a Christian as a lawful reason for divorce. However, the Christian should never divorce his or her partner if the partner does not become a Christian too. When people experience problems in their marriage, I try everything I can to persuade them to stay together, solve their problem and develop their marriage relationship to something very special.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 19:16-30 about the rich young ruler. This young man was very religious, because he tried to keep all the religious laws in his country. But this young man was not satisfied and happy, because he felt all the time that something was missing in his life. So he came to Jesus and asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." The young man weighed the alternatives and decided that his great wealth was more important than having eternal life and he left Jesus. His great wealth stood between him and becoming a follower of Jesus. So Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven". I have made a decision not to love money and not to make the accumulation of wealth the goal of my life. Jesus does not ask me to sell everything and give to the poor. But he does ask me to follow him and love him above everything else. So I have made a commitment to rather live a simple life-style and make the following of Jesus Christ the goal of life. Jesus says to his disciples and me, "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life". And finally Jesus warns even his disciples and me against becoming proud of leaving the worldly things for the sake of serving Jesus.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 20.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 20:1-16 about the parable of the workers in the vineyard. The owner of a large vineyard hired many day-workers at different times of the day and agreed with the first workers to pay them one denarius, which was the wages for one full day of work. At the end of the day, he paid everyone of the workers one denarius and even paid the last workers first and the first workers last! The first workers were angry, because they thought that they were not paid fairly. And they were envious and complained, because they felt that the last workers should not receive so much. They thought it was unfair that the others, who had worked less, should receive as much as they did. But the owner replied, "Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

This parable is a part of what Jesus said to the rich young man and his disciples in Matthew 19. Jesus had warned his disciples and us against becoming proud of serving Jesus. In this parable Jesus warns against falling prey to the work-for-wages spirit with respect to service in God's kingdom. Jesus teaches that like the owner of the vineyard, God has the sovereign right with respect to whom he employs in his kingdom and how he rewards his workers on the final judgement day. He warns Christians against getting envious towards other workers in God's kingdom that God rewards differently. Christians must avoid being among the people who want to be first and who want to be rewarded for what they do in God's kingdom. Christians must avoid falling prey to a desire to be rewarded for their services in God's kingdom. Being saved is grace and being asked to get involved in service

within God's kingdom is a privilege and not a right. Instead of comparing ourselves with other Christians who have become Christians much later than ourselves and have served much shorter in God's kingdom than ourselves, we should rather marvel at the fact that God saved us and employed us in his kingdom. We should rather be very glad that also people who become believers in Jesus Christ at a late stage in their life, will receive as much grace as we have received and will receive as much privileges in God's kingdom as we do. And we must heed the warning of Jesus that proud Christians will have to stand at the end of the line and will be regarded as the least important in God's kingdom.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 20:24-28 about Christian leadership. Jesus says that the leaders in the world lord it over their subjects and exercise authority over them. The leaders want their subjects to feel that they have power, that they are the "boss" and that their subjects must do what they command. Jesus says that all Christian leaders may not be like this! Christian leadership is completely different than worldly leadership. Christian leaders may never lord it over Christians entrusted into their care. They may not lead by exercising authority, but must lead by service. The apostle Peter adds, that Christian leaders must lead by example. Therefore, Jesus and the apostles teach that the Church may not copy worldly style of leadership. They must follow the biblical style of leadership and that is by service and by example. I have made a decision with God that I want to be a leader in the way Jesus and the apostles taught.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 21.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 21:12-13 about Jesus cleansing the temple. When Jesus uses violence in the temple, can he still be regarded as sinless? "Sin" is doing what God forbids or neglecting to do what God commands. When Jesus uses violence to clean out God's temple, he did not do what God had forbidden and he did not neglect what God had commanded. Instead, he glorified God by restoring the temple to its original purpose to be a house of prayer. The tradesmen had turned the outer court of the temple into a marketplace. The merchants were making lots of money by selling the sacrificial animals for exorbitant high prices. The moneychangers too were making money, not in the least by cheating the unsuspecting foreign visitors. And the priests allowed all this racketeering to continue, because they probably received a large kickback from the merchants. When Jesus saw all this, he burned with holy anger. He drove out the merchants and overturned the tables of the moneychangers. Jesus showed that he was really the Lord of the temple and that one day he would be the judge of the world. The temple police would not have dared to stop Jesus, because at that moment Jesus was very popular and had just entered Jerusalem in triumphal procession. Not all violence is sin. Certainly the violence that God and Jesus use against sinners is a holy and righteous violence! When Jesus judges sin, he uses violence. When he comes to judge the world at his Second Coming, he will again use violence to judge all the wicked people.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 21:28-32 about the parable of the two sons. A father asked one son to go and work in his vineyard. He said "no", but later changed his mind and went. The father said the same to the second son. He answered "yes", but did not go. Jesus compares the repentant sinners with the unrepentant religious leaders of Israel. The religious leaders of Israel knew God's will, but did not do it. When John the Baptist reminded them, they hardened their hearts and refused to repent or to believe. However, those who were regarded as the worst sinners in Israel, the tax collectors and prostitutes, heard the gospel believed it and entered into God's kingdom. I want to make sure that I not only know God's will, but also really do God's will.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 21:33-46 about the parable of the wicked tenants. A landowner planted a vineyard and then rented it to some farmers. During the harvest he send his servants to collect his fruit. But the wicked tenants beat and killed his servants. Finally the landowner sent his son. The wicked tenants also killed his son. The landowner came and brought the wicked tenants to a wretched end and rented the vineyard to farmers who gave him his share of the crop at harvest time. The main message of this parable is verse 43, in which Jesus says, "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit." Israel had been entrusted with the privileges of being God's people, but they neglected their obligations and killed the prophets. Therefore, the kingdom of God is taken away from God's old covenant people, Israel, and given to God's new covenant people, the Christian Church, which consists of believers from every nation in the world, including Jews.

(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Divide Matthew 22:1 to 25:13 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

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