

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In this second series God teaches that there are 5 things that characterize the life of a new Christian: Christ, the Bible, prayer, fellowship with other Christians and witnessing. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE READS HIS BIBLE REGULARLY.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Matthew 4:4. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Let me read Matthew 4:4.

The memorisation verse is: Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'." Matthew 4:4.

(Question) What is the implication of the words "It is written"?

(T) Jesus used this expression whenever he quoted something from the Bible. Here in Matthew, Jesus quoted three times from Deuteronomy 8 in the Old Testament. Deuteronomy 8:1-5. "Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers. Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you." *Jesus had an exalted view of the Bible*. Jesus regarded the Bible as the ultimate touchstone of the truth for life and doctrine. And he regarded the Bible as the final court of appeal for the reason. In order *to give an answer* to the devil's temptation, Jesus quoted from the Bible.

(Question) How did God teach the Israelites that man does not live on bread alone?

(S) God led the Israelites for forty years through the desert in order to humble them and to test them (Deuteronomy 8:1-5). The word 'to humble' can better be translated with 'to bring into pressure'. God brought the Israelites into a situation of pressure in order to test them. The situation of pressure was that they lacked bread; they had no ordinary food to eat; they were suffering hunger. God tested them to know what was in their heart. It was not that God did not know what was in their hearts, because God knows everything. But God tested them in order to reveal their attitudes and cause them *to know themselves*.

God not only brought them into a situation of pressure, he also cared for them in that situation of pressure. He created 'manna' for them to eat. He also took responsibility that their clothes did not wear out and that their feet did not swell from all the walking in the desert.

First bringing them into a situation of pressure and then caring for them in that situation of pressure was God's way to teach and discipline Israel. The lesson God wanted to teach them was that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. What came out of the mouth of the Lord was a word that created food, called 'manna'. This was an expression of his loving care for people. The reason God brought them into situations of pressure and cared for them in those situations of pressure was that they would not trust in themselves and not trust in any other creature, but only trust in God.

The powerful spoken word of God is a creative and sustaining word. On the one hand it creates and on the other hand it maintains, preserves or sustains life. By his spoken word, God created food for them and encouraged them to trust and obey his authoritative written word.

(Question) What are biblical examples of the word that comes from the mouth of God?

(T) In the first chapter of the Bible we read that God spoke a word and said, "Let there be light!" and there was light. The word that comes from the mouth of God is so powerful that it created the earth with everything on it as well as the whole universe with its uncountable stars. Psalm 33:6 says, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." Also Hebrews 11:3 refers to God creating everything by his powerful spoken word. It says, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's

command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” God’s spoken word is so powerful that it creates something out of nothing!

The angel Gabriel said, “No word of God shall be without power!” (Luke 1:37). The angel was referring to the fact that Mary would bear a son without having had a relationship with any man. The fact that God took on a human nature in Jesus Christ becomes a reality through the powerful spoken word of God (Luke 1:34-38). Thus, the word that comes out of the mouth of God is God’s powerful spoken word, by which he created the universe and thereafter sustained it. By his spoken word, God created food for the Israelites in the desert and cared for them. By his spoken word, God would create and sustain conditions that would care for Jesus in the desert after he had fasted forty days. While the devil believed that ordinary bread is absolutely necessary to keep alive, Jesus declared that not bread, but the powerful spoken word of God is the only source of man’s life and well-being!

(Question) How does this word of God cause man to live?

(S) Like the devil, many modern people believe that man can live on ordinary bread alone. Jesus, however, declares that the indispensable source of man’s life and well-being is God’s powerful spoken word that creates the conditions that man needs to live. Whether you believe in God or not, if God does not speak his powerful creative word, there will be no bread at all. Today in a secularised world, many people do not believe in the existence of God and do not believe that man is dependent on God for everything. Like the devil modern man believes only in the material universe and how to utilise it for his own advantage. However, Jesus says, that all people are absolutely dependent on the existence of God and the powerful spoken words of God.

(Question) Why is every word spoken by God important for man?

(T) God’s powerful spoken words create the air, which man breathes, the rain and sunshine for his crops, the food, which he eats. They sustain man day after day and minute by minute. If God does not speak his powerful creative words, there will be no rain, no sunshine, no food, no water, no air to breathe, no beautiful trees and flowers. In short, nothing will exist, because God creates and sustains everything that exists by his spoken word! Therefore, Jesus says that man can only live by every word that comes from the mouth of God! Conclusion. The spoken word of God is absolutely indispensable. The spoken word of God creates all the conditions for man to live his life on this earth. Without God’s spoken word, no one would be able to exist, to breathe, to eat food or do anything on earth. *God’s spoken word is an expression of God’s sovereignty over all creation, over all circumstances and also over all events in history.*

(Question) Does Matthew 4:4 also refer to the written word of God?

(S) Yes. In the past, God spoke words through the prophets. He spoke his final words through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:1). And God commanded that his words should be recorded in the Bible (cf. Jeremiah 36:2). God’s spoken words are powerful and effective. But the Bible also says that God’s written words are powerful and effective.

Jeremiah 23:29 says, “Is not my word like fire”, declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

The written word of God is the Bible. All the words of God in the Bible are powerful and effective. It breaks hardened hearts like a hammer breaks rock. It destroys human arguments like fire destroys the straw. According to Hebrews 4:12, the written word of God reveals the inner thoughts and attitudes of the heart. According to 1 Peter 2:2, the written word of God causes a believer to grow in his Christian life. And according to 1 Timothy 3:16, the written word of God is very useful to teach the truths of God, to show people their sins, to correct their wrongs and to train them to become well-equipped workers for God.

Conclusion. The written words of God in the Bible are powerful and effective. Man can only live as God intended him to live, when he lives according to the written words of God in the Bible. *The written words of God in the Bible have the power to reveal the mysteries of God, to destroy sin and evildoers, to save believers and to cause believers to grow in spiritual matters.*

(T) **POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is “Word”. Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Matthew 4:4. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(S) Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.

(T) Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.

(T+S) Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'." Matthew 4:4.

(S) Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'." Matthew 4:4.

(T) Why is it important to memorise Bible verses without one mistake?

(S) Because it is very hard to unlearn mistakes that you have memorised. Moreover, it is much easier to memorise and review, to recall and use Bible verses when you have memorised them without one mistake.

(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

The series "Christian assurances", verses 2-5 and the series "The new life", verse 1.

(S) Assurance of answered prayer. John 16:24. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24.

(T) Assurance of victory. 1 Corinthians 10:13. No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

(S) Assurance of forgiveness. 1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

(T) Assurance of God's guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

(S) Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:21.

(T) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and make disciples" and Internet on www etc.

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