

(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 25:14 to 28:20.

(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 25:14 – 28:20**

This past week we read, meditated and prayed from Matthew 25:14 – 28:20. 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 25.

I want to share from Matthew 25:1-13 about the parable of the ten virgins. Ten girls waited for the groom to arrive at the wedding hall. They brought lamps, but only five wise girls brought extra oil for their lamps. The symbolical meaning of the "oil" is not explained, but it could signify the Holy Spirit, through whose work of rebirth and renewal people are prepared and ready to meet Jesus Christ. The ten girls waited so long for the groom to arrive that the lamps of the five foolish girls went out and they left to buy more oil. While they were away, the groom arrived and the five wise girls entered the wedding hall together with the groom. Later when the five foolish girls tried to enter, they were refused!

The main message of this parable is to be prepared for the Second Coming of Christ. When he comes, he comes suddenly and unexpectedly. Those who had not prepared for his coming will have no time to prepare. The door of the kingdom of God will be shut and there will be no second chance to go in! People, who are not saved before they die or are still unsaved when Jesus comes, will have no second chance to be saved. I will always remember two Bible verses. Proverbs 27:1 says, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth". And 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 says that we should not receive God's grace in vain, because now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation".

(S) I want to share from Matthew 25:14-30 about the parable of the talents. A rich businessman entrusted certain great amounts of money to three of his servants, each according to their ability. The first one received five talents, put his money to work and gained five more talents. The second servant did the same with his two talents. But the third servant was wicked and lazy. He neglected his assigned task and hid his master's money in the ground. When the master returned, he settled accounts with each servant. The first two servants were rewarded for their faithfulness, but the third servant was suspicious and lazy. He argued that his master was a hard man that harvested where he had not sown. This third servant was lying when he alleged that his master was a hard man who exacted more than he had the right to exact. He was also lying when he returned the one talent and said, "See, here is what belongs to you", because he not only owed his master the one talent, but also whatever he could have earned with that one talent! So his master punished him for his unjustified suspicion, lies and laziness. The main message of the parable is that everyone should be faithful in using *the opportunities for service* that God gives to each according to his ability. On the final judgement day, God will punish negligence and reward diligence. I also think it is important that God does not give to every person the same abilities and opportunities. On the last judgement day, the number of talents you or I have will not matter at all. What will really matter is "Have I been faithful in using whatever talents God has given to me?"

(T) I want to share from Matthew 25:31-46 about the last judgement. How will all people be judged? According to John 5:28-29 the resurrection of both believers and unbelievers and the final judgement of believers and unbelievers will take place on the one and only Second Coming of Jesus Christ. According to Matthew 13:30 and 37-43 and Matthew 25:31-33, at his Second Coming, Christ will send out his angels to gather his elect from the whole earth and to weed out of his kingdom all who do evil and everything that causes sin. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the dead bodies of believers will be resurrected and united to their living souls, the bodies of the still living believers will be changed in a flash and together they will be caught up to welcome Jesus Christ coming on the clouds! According to the book of Revelation, the throne of God and of the Lamb is generally in the upper regions, probably in the air. Thus, the believers will first ascend with joy to meet Jesus Christ in the air, and later on the same last day, the wicked people and unbelievers will be driven by the angels before his judgement throne. "All the nations" without any exception will stand in front of the judgement throne to hear Christ's public announcement of their salvation or doom.

The judgement described in Matthew 25:31-46 is the same as the judgement described in 2 Corinthians 5:10 and in Revelation 20:11-15. There will be only one final judgement and it will be universal and final. There will be no second chance for people to be saved! Jesus Christ himself will separate the believers from the unbelievers. The books will be opened and also the book of life will be opened. All people whose names are written in it will inherit eternal life, while all whose names are not written in it will be condemned to eternal punishment. Above all, the righteousness of God and of Christ must be publicly displayed. But also the righteousness of believers and the wickedness of unbelievers must be publicly displayed. The exact degree of rewards for believers or the exact punishments for unbelievers will be designated. Each person will be judged according to whether he lived his life in harmony with Christ's teachings or not. That is, he will be judged if he had faith in Christ and lived his life in love for Christ or not. "The sheep" are a picture of those who trust and follow obediently, while "the goats" are a picture of those who are belligerent, unruly and destructive. In Matthew 25, the manner anyone has treated Christians, regardless whether he was originally a Jew or a Gentiles, will be taken into account. According to Matthew 25 and John 5:24, the true Christians will not be condemned and not a single one of their sins will be remembered, only their good deeds (Mt 25:34-40). However, the good works of the true Christians will not be the root, but the fruit of their salvation. The faithful fulfilment of their assigned tasks will be commended. Whatever they did to other Christians, will be counted as if done for Christ. These righteous Christians will shine like the sun in Christ's kingdom (Mt 13:43; Dan 12:3). However, the wicked are also judged according to what they have done. Matthew 25 does not mention a single sinful deed, which they might have done, like idolatry, murder, adultery or theft, but only their sins of neglect. The unbelievers ignored salvation (Heb 2:3) and they neglected to live a life pleasing to God. Whatever the unbelievers did not do to other Christians, will be counted as if not done for Christ. The unbelievers are sent into the eternal fire (Matthew 25:46), which was originally prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 26.

(S) I want to share from Matthew 26:26-30, about the institution of the Lord's Supper. Jesus and his disciples were celebrating *the Passover feast*. The Passover feast was instituted just before the exodus out of Egypt, when God delivered his people out of the house of slavery. During the Passover feast, a lamb without defect was slaughtered and its blood was put on the sides and tops of the doors of the houses where they celebrated the feast.

But at this time in history, the Passover feast passed over into the Lord's Supper. Both point to Jesus Christ, who is the only and completely sufficient sacrifice for the sins of his people. The Passover in the Old Testament pointed forward to the death of Jesus and the Lord's Supper in the New Testament points back to the death of Jesus. The very next day, Jesus would die on the cross.

Jesus took some *bread*, broke it and said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Jesus did not mean that the bread is miraculously changed into his body, because he was still standing there in his body. Jesus was using symbolical language, like he often did when he spoke of himself. For example, Jesus also called himself "the door", "the morning star", "the cornerstone", "the lamb", and "the bread of life".

Then Jesus took *the cup* and said, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." At the Passover feast it was customary to drink several cups of diluted wine. This was the last cup, the cup after the supper. The emphasis is never on the container, but on its contents. The wine is a symbol of the blood of the covenant. In the Old Testament, the blood of the covenant was the blood of the sacrificial animals. In the New Testament it is the blood of the crucified Jesus. In both cases it is *a substitution sacrifice* and *an atoning sacrifice* (Leviticus 17:11). The Bible says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus was saying that his body, broken on the cross and his blood, shed on the cross would give everlasting life to everyone who believes in him as certain as the Christian now eats the broken bread and drinks from the cup. Every time I partake of the Lord's Supper, I remember his death and I am strengthened in the knowledge that, because I believe, I surely have eternal life!

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 27.

(T) I want to share from my meditation about the sufferings of Jesus. I will mention 20 ways in which Jesus suffered. One. Jesus suffered, because he was betrayed. One of his own disciples, Judas, betrayed him to a crowd of people armed with swords and clubs. Two. Jesus suffered, because he was deserted. All his other disciples deserted him and fled away from him! Three. Jesus suffered, because he was falsely accused during his trial. Four. Jesus suffered, because he was falsely accused of blasphemy. He had said that in the future people would see him sit at the right hand of God. Five. Jesus suffered, because people spat upon him. Six. Jesus suffered, because people beat him with their fists and with sticks. Seven. Jesus suffered, because he was condemned to death. Eight. Jesus suffered, because he was bound and handed over to the Roman Gentiles. Nine. Jesus suffered, because a shouting crowd decided his trial. The Roman governor had already proven his innocence. Nevertheless, he allowed the crowd to choose between Jesus and a robber and they chose the robber. Ten. Jesus suffered, because he was flogged. Scourging was a hideous torture. The Roman scourge consisted of a short wooden handle to which several thongs were attached, the ends of which consisted of pieces of lead, brass or bone. The victim was beaten on his bare back by two men, one from each side. The back would be torn open and the victim often died. Eleven. Jesus suffered, because the crowd of people mocked him. The soldiers stripped him, threw a robe over him, crowned him with a crown of thorns, mockingly adored him, spat on him and struck him again and again on the crown of thorns on his head. Twelve. Jesus suffered, because the soldiers forced him to carry his own cross until he collapsed. Thirteen. Jesus suffered, because he endured all the pain in a very conscious way. He refused to drink a drug that would have eased the pain, because he wanted to be a perfect substitution sacrifice. Fourteen. Jesus suffered, because he was crucified. Long iron nails were driven through his hands and feet onto a wooden cross and then he hung with his full body weight on these nails. Fifteen. Jesus suffered, because he was crucified naked. The soldiers divided his clothes by gambling. Sixteen. Jesus suffered, because he was crucified between two other criminals. Thus the government wanted the people to regard Jesus as a criminal too. This was a gross injustice to him. Seventeen. Jesus suffered, because bystanders insulted him. Eighteen. Jesus suffered, because the leaders of the Jews mocked him publicly. Nineteen. Jesus suffered, because the robbers insulted him. Finally. Jesus suffered, because God forsook him. God turned his face away from Jesus, because Jesus had to experience what it means to be forsaken by God. Jesus had to experience hell in the place of all people that would believe in him. He was the perfect substitution sacrifice that finally turned God's holy anger against our sins away.

Sharing quiet times from Matthew chapter 28.

(S) I want to share about the resurrection of Jesus. On the third day after his death, Jesus was resurrected very early on the first day of the week (Sunday). That is why Christians all over the world like to meet on the first day of the week (Sunday) to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is not dead. He is alive! An angel had lifted the heavy stone in front of the tomb completely out of its groove, turned it on its flat side and sat on it. He removed the stone, not to let Jesus out of the tomb, but to enable people to enter the tomb and witness the resurrection. Inside the tomb, Peter and John saw only the bandages that had embalmed Jesus. Therefore nobody had removed the body. Jesus proved in many ways that he had risen from the dead. He possessed a resurrected body, which was no more bound to the physical laws of this present creation. His living body went through the grave clothes, through the stone tomb and later through locked doors. He appeared to many people over a period of forty days before he ascended into heaven. The resurrection of Jesus is as important as his death. His death worked salvation for his people. His resurrection proved that God had accepted his substitution sacrifice! After his resurrection, Jesus Christ applies that salvation to his people whenever they believe in him.

(T) I want to share from Matthew 28:18-20 about the great commission of Jesus. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he commanded his disciples to go to all the nations in the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ. Disciples are made by preaching the gospel, by baptising those who believe in Jesus Christ and by continually teaching them to know the commands of Jesus and to obey the commands of Jesus. A disciple is a mature Christian, who actually follows Jesus Christ in his or her daily life and continually learns from him as he follows him. The disciples of Jesus Christ could fulfil the great commission, because all power in heaven and on earth now belongs to Jesus and Jesus promised to be with them every day until he comes again. The great commission is also my commission. I am giving my life to go and make disciples of all nations. Making disciples of Jesus Christ all over the world is the greatest endeavour in the world. Nothing is more important! Nothing else has such influence! Nothing else is more satisfying!

(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Divide John 1:1 – 4:22 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".