

DOTA 047 MEMORISATION 10
A DISCIPLE WITNESSES FOR CHRIST (MATTHEW 10:32)

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T = teacher 1 S = teacher 2

(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 WITNESSES FOR CHRIST.

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

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Matthew 10:32. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Let me read the memorisation verse.

The memorisation verse is: Witnessing. Matthew 10:32. "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32.

Jesus spoke these words to his twelve disciples when he gave them the command to go and preach the message about the kingdom of God (Matthew 10:5-10). The message about the kingdom of God is the message about God's grace for believers through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And it is the message about God's kingship over believers through the reign of Christ in heaven. In spite of the fact that the disciples of Jesus will have to face opposition to their message and to the way they live, they must proclaim the good news without fear. Jesus gives them four reasons to be his fearless witnesses.

(T) **The first reason. You can be a fearless witness for Jesus Christ, because your enemies cannot prevent that they will be shamed publicly and you will be vindicated publicly.**

In Matthew 10:26 Jesus says, "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known." The enemies of Christians cannot hide their evil actions against Christians. They cannot prevent that their own evil opposition, persecution and killing of the Christians will one day be publicly exposed! At the Final Judgement Day, these enemies of Christ and of Christians will be shamed in front of all people that have ever lived on this earth. The Bible says that God will bring every deed including every hidden thing into judgement (Ecclesiastes 14:12). Everyone in the world will know what each enemy of the Christians has done.

In Matthew 10:27 Jesus says, "What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs." The enemies of Christians can also not prevent that the Christians will one day be publicly vindicated. At the Final Judgement Day, Christ and all his disciples will be honoured in front of all the people that have ever lived on this earth. The Bible says that Christ will reward each person according to what he has done (Matthew 16:27). Everyone in the world will know what each Christian has suffered and has accomplished.

Therefore, Jesus says that his disciples must not be afraid to proclaim the message of the kingdom openly, frankly and courageously.

(S) **The second reason. You can be a fearless witness for Jesus Christ, because your enemies cannot kill your soul, but only your body.**

In Matthew 10:28 Jesus says, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Whatever the enemies of Christ and of Christians may wish to do, there is one thing they can never do! They cannot kill your soul! While your body is the material and visible part of your being, your soul or spirit is the immaterial and invisible part of your being. People can kill your body, but they can never kill your soul or spirit. When you die, either peacefully in old age or through sickness or through persecution, your body returns to the elements of the ground from which it came and your soul returns to God from where it came. Ecclesiastes 12:7 teaches that the dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it. However, only the soul or spirit of Christians will return to God.

The soul or spirit of people who rejected Jesus Christ will go to hell. Luke 16:19-31 speaks of a rich man, who lived in luxury, but refused to share some of his possessions with a certain poor man lying at his door. When this rich miser died his body was buried, but his soul was taken to hell where he suffered torment. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 teaches that every person that does not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord.

The soul or spirit of Christians will immediately go to where Jesus Christ is in heaven. In Philippians 1:23 Paul says that he desires to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far. And in 2 Corinthians 5:1 he teaches that when our earthly tent or body is destroyed, we will have an eternal house in heaven, which is not built by human hands.

(T) The third reason. You can be a fearless witness for Jesus Christ, because your enemies can neither undo God's will nor undo his loving care for you.

In Matthew 10:29-31 Jesus says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

It is true that just like a sparrow, you must one day die. But if God watches over every sparrow, even though they are worth next to nothing, how much more will God not watch over you, who are worth much more than many sparrows?

God promises that he will watch over your life and work in a very special way. All things that happen to you on earth happen under the constant watchful eye of God and they only happen because God has given his consent. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Whatever God wills for your life, will certainly happen. Your enemies cannot change God's will. And whatever happens to you, it will happen only within the boundaries of God's love for you and God's care of you.

(S) The fourth reason. You can be a fearless witness for Jesus Christ, because Jesus will confess you if you confess him before people.

In Matthew 10:32-33 Jesus says, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him before my father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."

To confess means, to say the same about Jesus Christ to people what God says about him in the Bible. What you confess must therefore be the truth as it is found in the Bible and not in any other religious book. To confess means to acknowledge openly that Jesus Christ is your Saviour and Lord. It means that you are never ashamed of Jesus Christ in the presence of the people in the world or even your enemies. However, to disown Jesus Christ before other people means that you are ashamed to acknowledge him and therefore speak and act as if you do not know Jesus Christ.

Jesus promises, that if you acknowledge him before other people here on earth, he will also acknowledge you at the final judgement day before all the people that have ever lived on earth. But Jesus also utters a threat, namely, that if you disown him before other people here on earth, he will also disown you at the final judgement day before all the people that have ever lived on earth (cf. Matthew 25:34-36).

(T) Witnessing for Jesus Christ will bring division amongst people on earth.

In Matthew 10:34-36 Jesus says, "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

This statement of Jesus Christ was something the disciples did not expect. Was Jesus not the Great Peacemaker between God and man (Ephesians 2:14)? Did Jesus not pronounce a blessing on all people on earth that were peacemakers (Matthew 5: 9)? How could Jesus now say, "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth"? This statement of Jesus is a typical Eastern proverbial saying, which intends to emphasize only one side of the truth.

The first coming of Jesus Christ brought division. It was even intended to bring division! If this were not so, no one would have been saved. Everyone would have followed the broad road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). The expressed purpose of Jesus Christ was to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10) and to turn such people from their wicked ways (Acts 3:26).

First. Jesus Christ will bring the sword for some of his followers. The sword is the symbol of persecution. The Romans used it to kill their opponents. Christians must expect persecution and some may even die.

Second. Jesus Christ will turn the unbelieving family members against the believing family members. The best interpretation seems to be that the unbelieving daughter and daughter-in-law will oppose the believing mother and mother-in-law. And the unbelieving son and son-in-law will oppose the believing father and father-in-law. Christians must expect that some of their own family members will be their enemies, will betray them and will even hand them over to be killed.

(S) Witnessing for Jesus Christ will force Christians to make a choice between Christ and their family members.

In Matthew 10:37-39 Jesus says, "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross

and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

The Christian faith is in this sense the great divider of families. Every family member must make a personal choice whether he or she is going to follow Christ or not. When a son or daughter does not believe in Jesus Christ, the father and mother must make a choice whether they will continue to love Jesus Christ more than their child or whether they will let go of the faith in order to please the child. If the choice is between a child and Christ, the child’s wish, no matter how ardent, should be rejected.

But in other families the father or mother does not believe in Jesus Christ and then the son and daughter must make the choice whether they will continue to love Jesus Christ more than their parents or whether they will let go of the faith in order to please their parents. If the choice is between a parent and Christ, the parent’s wish, no matter how ardent, should be rejected.

The entrance of Jesus Christ into this world divides the whole world into two parts. It turns the unbeliever against the believer. It divides families. It divides friends. It divides citizens in a country. And it even divides certain churches.

That is why every Christian who wants to continue to witness for Christ must be willing to make sacrifices for Christ. “To take up the cross” and follow Jesus Christ means to be willing to suffer rejection, opposition, shame and persecution for the sake of Jesus Christ. This rejection and opposition may come from one’s own family, from one’s own friends and from one’s own neighbours. Christians cannot avoid this rejection, opposition and persecution. When a Christian tries to save himself by escaping from rejection, opposition and persecution he will in the end certainly lose everything! However, when a Christian is willing to lose his reputation and life for the sake of Jesus Christ, he will in the end certainly save himself!

(S) 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 “Witnessing”. Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Matthew 10:32. 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.

(T) 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) Witnessing. Matthew 10:32. “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32.

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(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”, verse 5 and the series “the new life”, verses 1-4.

(T) Assurance of 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 5:17.

(T) 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) Prayer. John 15:7. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. John 15:7.

(T) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.

(S) 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”.