

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why does God desire that the living of our lives for Him should be so secret?
2. Why is it wrong to let others know of our good deeds in helping the poor?
3. What place does public worship have and what should be the motives of our heart?
4. In what ways does God “reward openly”?

SUMMARY:

The teaching of Jesus always is that in serving Him we are not to do it to be seen of men but rather that we do it secretly. He gives the promise that God who sees in secret shall reward openly. When our giving to the poor or contributing to any cause is done in such a way to let men know of our doings, or if our prayers are made and our worshipping of God is done in such a way to attract the attention of men, then we have our reward from them. The motives of the heart in all of these is so important. God looks upon the heart, while man looks upon the outward appearance.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

November 18, 2007

Fourth Quarter

THE CHRISTIAN'S MOTIVES

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 6:1-8; 16-18*

LESSON SETTING: Christ preaches on the mount.

TIME: The beginning of Christ's ministry.

I. MOTIVES IN HELPING OTHERS. Matthew 6:1-4

- A. Outward Display (vs. 2) Matthew 23:5
- B. Forbidden (vs. 1)
- C. Earthly Reward Only (vs. 1-2) John 5:44
- D. Secret Helping
 1. God Knows (vs. 4) 1 Samuel 2:3; Daniel 2:22
 2. God Will Reward (vs. 4) Psalm 58:11; Revelation 22:12

II. MOTIVES IN PRAYER. Matthew 6:5-8

- A. To be Seen of Men (vs. 5)
 1. Assumed Holiness. Isaiah 58:2-4; Matthew 23:14
- B. Secret Prayer (vs. 6)
 1. Commanded (vs. 6)
 2. Answer Promised (vs. 6) Isaiah 65:24; John 15:7
 3. Examples: Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35; Acts 10:9

III. MOTIVES IN SELF-DISCIPLINE. Matthew 6:16-18

- A. Fasting. Joel 2:12; Matthew 17:21
- B. Appetites Restrained. Luke 21:34; 1 Corinthians 9:27
- C. Subdue Fleshly Lusters. Romans 13:14; 1 Peter 2:11
- D. Outward Appearance to be Avoided (vs. 17-18) Matthew 23:27

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *THY FATHER WHICH SEETH IN SECRET SHALL REWARD THEE OPENLY.* Matthew 6:6

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 8:5-13

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Ecclesiastes 7:1-10; Luke 7:1-10

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: AN EXAMPLE OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION:

A great need existed in the household of the centurion, a need that was known because this servant was loved by his master. Apparently all avenues of help had been sought and now the "Great Physician" had appeared in this town. His way of healing was different. He had power to heal by touching people. This was being done among the Israelite people. Did the centurion, a Roman, dare ask this man of the Israelites to enter his home? Really it wouldn't be necessary because this man, Jesus, does have authority over sickness and He can surely "command" this sickness to depart.

Thus the centurion may have reasoned in his heart and this is the way he reacted when he sent for Jesus. He had full confidence in Jesus' healing power and he, a man of authority among the people also realized that Jesus had a higher authority than his and did not deem himself worthy of being in the presence of Jesus. This too is to be the attitude of those who see Jesus' healing for sin-sickness. We must believe without a doubt, that Jesus is able to heal us and we must recognize that since He is the Son of God, we are not even worthy to be in His presence. Thanks be to God and our Lord Jesus that He does redeem and He will present us to the Father.

CENTRAL TRUTH: When we exercise faith in Christ, His power brings deliverance.

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . *AND AS THOU HAS BELIEVED, SO BE IT DONE UNTO THEE.*

Matthew 8:13

What a blessed statement this is! The words of the Lord given to a man who believed without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was able to heal. In like manner is this statement true for each of us today as we look to Him. So often in life we find it difficult to have such faith and we are thus led into experiences of extreme need for God's help. It seems that only then do we find the faith to really call upon God for His help because there is no other aid available. How simple life would be for us if we could and would live in such a measure of faith as this centurion manifested on this occasion.

We find too, that this same faith is necessary for our Spiritual healing. When we become so sick of our sinful life and when we have tried our utmost to live better and have failed over and over again, then only it seems, that we cry unto the Lord. Then only do we hear Him say, "*As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.*"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 19 - 25

M. *The Centurion's Servant. Matthew 8:5-13

T. Report of Faith. Romans 1:7-17

W. Example of Faith. Ephesians 1:15-23

T. Service of Faith. Philippians 2:5-17

F. Steadfastness of Faith. Colossians 2:1-8

S. Comfort of Faith. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

S. Additions of Faith. 2 Peter 1:5-14