

The Gospel of Matthew

Booklet 08 – Three Lessons

Lesson 19 - Matthew 6: 23-34

Lesson 20 - Matthew 7: 1-12

Lesson 21 - Matthew 7:13-29

Short Teachings

You got a speck in your eye!



The Speck & the Beam Matthew 7:1-5

International ESL/Bible Lessons
Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series.

I also use Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

The Gospel Of Matthew

Lesson 19 - Matthew 6:23-34 Short Teachings

6 The eye

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. / If your eyes are healthy, / your whole body will be full of light. / ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, / your whole body will be full of darkness. / If then / the light within you is darkness, / how great is that darkness!

The master

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. / Either you will hate the one / and love the other, / or you will be devoted to the one / and despise the other. / You cannot serve both God and money.

Do Not Worry

²⁵ “Therefore / I tell you, / do not worry about your life, / what you will eat or drink; / or about your body, / what you will wear. / Is not life more than food, / and the body more than clothes? / ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; / they do not sow / or reap / or store away in barns, / and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. / Are you not much more valuable than they? / ²⁷ Can any one of you / by worrying / add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? / See how the flowers of the field grow. / They do not labor or spin. / ²⁹ Yet I tell you / that

not even Solomon / in all his splendor / was dressed like one of these. / ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, / which is here today / and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, / will he not much more clothe you—/ you of little faith? / ³¹ So do not worry, / saying, / ‘What shall we eat?’ / or ‘What shall we drink?’ / or ‘What shall we wear?’ / ³² For the pagans run after all these things, / and your heavenly Father knows / that you need them. / ³³ But seek first his kingdom / and his righteousness, / and all these things will be given to you as well. / ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, / for tomorrow will worry about itself. / Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Vocabulary and Related Words

1. Lamp: Electric light. Generally a table or floor lamp.
2. Despise: Stronger than hate. Regard with contempt and loathing.
3. Sow: Plant
4. Reap: Harvest
5. Spin: Make thread that makes cloth



Questions

1. How do you see various kinds of people? What kind of eye do you have for those different from you?
2. How does prejudice color who and what we see?

3. How will jealousy affect family relationships, business relationships?
4. What is the difference between being generous and begrudging?
5. How do most people react when they are forced to help?
6. How can we become slaves to money, jobs, computer games, alcohol or any other time consuming thing or idea?
7. What do your material possessions mean to you?
8. Explain how you deal with or control the temptation to worry?

Notes

1. At first the passage on the eye seems simplistic. However our seeing clearly depends on the lens we are using. If we see something with a pre judgment or prejudice, we have clouded our lens. If we see something with jealousy or envy, we have also clouded the picture. And if we see something through a view of over self-importance, then we do not have a clear picture.
2. Translations are interesting. The Greek word is *haplous* for single or healthy and is translated generous. The Greek word for dark or evil is *poneros*. This is translated grudging, stingy or ungenerous. Those who are generous, see the world in a very different way from those who are stingy or begrudging. Some give, others stand by and do something only under duress. That is not what God would have us do.

3. If you know an ungenerous person, you are aware it is almost impossible to live with them, for them to have good friends, and for them to have a good relationship with God. It is sad.
4. NIV translates *mamon* as money. The Hebrew translates it as material possessions. God wants people to use their money and possessions with responsibility.
5. Do not worry means do not worry anxiously. The Jews were very familiar with the teaching that a man ought to meet life with a combination of prudence and serenity. They insisted that every man must teach his son a trade, for not to teach him a trade was to teach him to steal. They believed in taking all the necessary steps for the prudent handling of life. But, at the same time, they said, "he who has a loaf in his basket and says, 'What will I eat tomorrow?' is a man of little faith. (Barclay, p. 256)
6. Worry is needless, useless and actively injurious. Worry cannot affect the past, nor the future. Worry is physically injurious for it affects the organs of the body such as the esophagus, the stomach, the heart and others we don't know of. Worry is a slow killer.
7. Worry is not trusting God. The sin of worry is not the greatest sin, but it is the one that injures a person the most.

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Lesson 20 - Matthew 7:1-12 Judging Others

7 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

⁶ “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Seek, Knock

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹ “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then,

though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Vocabulary

1. Speck: Small spot. Particle. Fragment. Crumb.
2. Plank: Long flat piece of wood. Board.
3. Trample: Flatten. Walk on heavily so as to cause damage. *Don't trample down the flowers as you walk across the field.*

Here we have the idiom: The pot calling the kettle black.



Questions

1. Why do we automatically judge people?
2. Why is judging or jumping to conclusions unfair?
3. Jesus often uses humor. How is the usage of the speck and the plank humorous?
4. Verse 6 seems to stand alone. Why is it important? How do we “throw away our valuables?”

5. How does God answer prayers?
6. Does God always give us exactly what we want when we want it?
7. Verse 12 is called the *Golden Rule*. Do other religions or cultures have something like this?

Notes

1. These short teachings continue. Judging another is really difficult, however, we all do it daily. It is dangerous because we cannot know either all the facts or all about the person.
2. It is difficult to be impartial in judgment. Each man carries his known and unrecognized prejudices within himself. Often, we are biased in the way we hear our news or information. The person or paper supposedly unbiased is often truly slanted one way or the other.
3. Jesus used humor in the illustration of the speck and the plank. But it is true that one person often criticizes another for doing exactly what the first person also did. It would be funny if it were not so true.
3. This saying of not giving Holy things to those who cannot and will not appreciate them is true. There was an argument in the early church about who should and should not receive Communion or the Lord's Supper. Today those churches with Closed Communion cite this verse.

4. We obey verse 6 as we carefully choose who we can trust with our information, our children, and other valuables of our lives. We must be prudent.
5. Prayer was and still is very important in the Jewish religion. So, the people Jesus was teaching knew a lot about prayer. The Golden Rule is probably the most famous thing that Jesus ever said.
6. *In verse 12, Jesus lays down the twin facts that God will always answer our prayers in HIS way, in wisdom and in love; and that we must bring to God an undiscouraged life of prayer, which tests the rightness of the things we pray for, and which tests our own sincerity in asking for them. (Barclay, p. 272)*

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Lesson 21 - Matthew 7:13-29 The Narrow and Wide Gates

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. / For wide is the gate / and broad is the road / that leads to destruction, / and many enter through it. /

¹⁴ But small is the gate / and narrow the road / that leads to life, / and only a few find it.

True and False Prophets

¹⁵ “Watch out for false prophets. / They come to you in sheep’s clothing, / but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. / ¹⁶ By their fruit

/ you will recognize them. / Do people pick grapes from thorn

bushes, / or figs from thistles? / ¹⁷ Likewise, / every good tree bears good fruit, / but a bad tree bears bad fruit. / ¹⁸ A good tree cannot

bear bad fruit, / and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. / ¹⁹ Every tree / that does not bear good fruit / is cut down / and thrown into the

fire. / ²⁰ Thus, / by their fruit / you will recognize them.

True and False Disciples

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, / ‘Lord, Lord,’ / will enter the kingdom of heaven, / but only the one / who does the will of my

Father / who is in heaven. / ²² Many will say to me on that day, /

‘Lord, Lord, / did we not prophesy in your name / and in your name / drive out demons / and in your name / perform many miracles?’ /

²³ Then I will tell them plainly, / ‘I never knew you. / Away from me, / you evildoers!’

The Wise and Foolish Builders

²⁴ “Therefore / everyone who hears these words of mine / and puts them into practice / is like a wise man / who built his house on the rock. / ²⁵ The rain came down, / the streams rose, / and the winds blew / and beat against that house; / yet it did not fall, / because it had its foundation on the rock. / ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine / and does not put them into practice / is like a foolish man / who built his house on sand. / ²⁷ The rain came down, / the streams rose, / and the winds blew / and beat against that house, / and it fell with a great crash.”

²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, / the crowds were amazed at his teaching, / ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, / and not as their teachers of the law.

Vocabulary and Related Words

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
Narrow	Narrowness	To narrow (down)	Narrowly
Wide	Wideness	To widen	Widely
	Watch Watchman	To watch out for	

False	Falsification	To falsify	Falsely
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1. Ferocious: Violent. Fierce. Cruel. Really mean.
2. Idiom: In sheep's clothing: Figurative. A dangerous person pretending to be harmless. *Carla thought the handsome stranger was gentle and kind, but Susan suspected he was a wolf in sheep's clothing.*

Mimi: Why shouldn't I go out with David? He's the nicest man I've ever met.

Alan: He's a wolf in sheep's clothing, Mimi. Can't you tell?

Questions

1. How do you make a choice when you come to life decisions like educational choice, spousal choice, and ways to raise children?
2. The two choices are generally *hard* and *easy*. Why is the hard choice often the best choice?
3. Who are some false prophets you can identify? Give an example.
4. False disciples are often those who do the outward signs and actions of discipleship, but inwardly they do not respect God. Do you know another word for this type of person?
5. Is your house, your hopes, your job built on a firm foundation? How can we know?
6. Who in your life taught you with authority?

Notes

1. Now we are nearing the end of the teachings of *The Sermon on the Mount*. Here Jesus turns to the choices that every person must make, and he uses the metaphor of the wide and narrow gate. Real life decisions take real thought and often the best way is hard. Choose the good things in life, not the tempting things that the crowd wants.
2. Another way is between the disciplined and the undisciplined life. In education, the undisciplined teacher or student fails. In medicine, the careless doctor can kill the patient. The list goes on. Self-discipline and self-control matter.
3. Scam artists and those trying to cheat you via the Internet are a form of false prophet. They will steal from you by promising something good. Every age has people who get a following and who believe what they say. I am thinking that many TV preachers are false prophets. "Send money to help children" often means, "Send me money, and I will give a small fraction to help children." I can substitute the word *children* for *wounded veteran* or *earthquake or storm victims*. These false prophets are everywhere.
4. By their fruits you will know if they are true or false. If the people trying to help feed the hungry actually give all they collect to the hungry, they are not false prophets, but are bearing good fruit.

5. The fruit of a lifetime can be measured by accomplishments from educational achievement, to caring for elderly parents. The adult child who abused his parents, stole the money, and let them die, is a false prophet and one whose fruit is simply self-interest and cruelty.
6. Not only are false prophets suspect in Jesus's teachings, so is the false disciple or student. It is not difficult to say words; it is difficult to live up to the words we do say. Saying *I love you* is very different from acting like it: helping or doing things in a loving way. A person can prove what he or she proclaims by practicing it.
7. This passage on true and false prophets and believers has an underlying message. It is that one-day we will be judged by how we truly live. Nothing will be hidden from God or often from those closest to the person.
8. Even today, houses have to be carefully placed. Building in a flood plain invites a flooded home. Building on unstable land invites the tragedy of a sinkhole. Your home should be built on good land and the foundation of the home should be solid. So you should live your life with a good foundation.
9. Jesus spoke and taught with Authority. The crowds were amazed and they listened to a great teacher.

10. This session ends the unit on the Sermon on the Mount. In

Matthew it is a collection of his teachings given at different times.

Luke also has the same teachings, but they take place within the context of his walking, teaching, and training his disciples.