

February 14, 2021

What Does Jesus Think About the Bible?

Matthew 5:17-20

There is a reciprocal relationship between how you **treat the Bible** and your experience with the **Kingdom of God**.

Matthew 5:19

Exceeding Righteousness:

6 case studies (Matthew 5:21-6:4) do 2 things:

1. Teaches us Jesus' **way of reading** the Bible
2. Shows us the kind of **righteousness** that goes deeper than **behavior**, and gets to our **hearts**.

We cannot just read the Bible and **obey all of its commands**. We need the ideas that the Bible is getting at, and the character of God to seep into our being and **transform our heart** from the inside out.

For Jesus the Bible...

... is a **STORY**, culminating in Him.

Matthew 5:17

... is **SCRIPTURE**.

Matthew 5:18 / Mark 12:36 / 2 Timothy 3:16 / 2 Peter 1:21

... is in need of **Study** to get back to the heart of it.

Matthew 5:21-6:4

... Something we **LIVE / Practice**, not just something we **READ**.

Matthew 5:19

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question?
- 2) Despite the facts the Bible is accurate, reliable and has the power to transform our lives, it still seems many Christians struggle to make it a regular part of their lives. Why do you think that is true?
- 3) How has your attitude about the Bible and how you read/study/listen to it changed over the years?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and 171 of its 176 verses contain a reference to God's Word. This Psalm gives us an inside look at how the writer, King David, used the Scriptures to stay connected with God in the midst of chaotic life circumstances. As you read through the various sections of this Psalm:

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** what you think is important to remember.
3. Put an **X** next to anything that confuses you.

vs. 1-16 ¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. ² Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart— ³ they do no wrong but follow his ways. ⁴ You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. ⁵ Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! ⁶ Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. ⁸ I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. ¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹² Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. ¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶ I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

vs. 65-72 ⁶⁵ Do good to your servant according to your word, Lord. ⁶⁶ Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands. ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I

went astray, but now I obey your word. ⁶⁸ You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. ⁶⁹ Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. ⁷⁰ Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. ⁷¹ It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. ⁷² The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

- What attitudes and actions do you see David maintaining to keep God's Word active in his life?
- Which of David's attitudes toward God's Word can you relate to the most? Which is most foreign to you?
- Looking back at what you wrote, are there any of these actions or attitudes you might want to consider adopting when it comes to keeping Scripture an active part of your life?

2) We heard this weekend that the Bible has the power to transform lives. Scripture uses various metaphors to explain this transformational power. For each verse below, jot down how the metaphor used to describe the Bible can impact people.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Jeremiah 23:29

"Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

How have you seen the Bible have this kind of impact on your life or someone else's life?

TAKING IT HOME

1) We are incredibly fortunate that the Bible is so accessible to us. We are also fortunate there are a variety of ways to get God's word into our lives, given that we all learn and understand things differently. As you look at the list below, circle any of the following ways that help you understand the Bible better:

- Listening to it being taught/sermons
- Reading it yourself
- Listening to Bible audio apps/recordings
- Discussing it with others
- Memorizing it Journaling/note taking
- Other

How might trying a different way of learning be important?

2) Take a moment to evaluate the level of attention you've been giving the Bible and how you're getting it into your life regularly. Are there any changes you need to make?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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