

Journey Through the New Testament

Matthew 5-9

Series: God's Assumptions

"Hearer or Doer?"

1-13-19

Introduction

Welcome to week two of "Journey Through the New Testament." *Making and keeping* the commitment to daily Bible reading can be challenging. Other things will always be demanding of our time and attention, but there is no substitute for the spiritual strength that comes from spending time in scripture. Do not be discouraged if you had difficulty sticking with the reading schedule this week. You will find your rhythm as you persevere in developing a new habit, and you will find encouragement from those who journey with you.

*The **word** of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Colossians 3:16 CEB*

Review of Group Guidelines

Be faithful to your commitment to daily scripture reading, reflection and consistent attendance.

Approach each days' reading and group time with prayerful anticipation.

Remember that each person is unique and in a different place on their spiritual journey.

Be patient and supportive listeners as group members share their thoughts and questions, being open to various interpretations.

Come to the group willing to share your insights and how you have encountered God in scripture.

Bring a Bible to the group each week. You may wish to keep a few notes or jot down questions that come to mind as you read.

Use the *Guide to Daily Reflection* as you read the scripture. Asking "What" will help you focus on the **content** of the chapter. Asking "So what" will help you sort out the **meaning** of what you are reading. Asking "Now what" will help you in the **application** of scripture to your daily living.

Pray that God will open your spirit to hear his word and give you courage to act upon it.

Opening Discussion

1. How did you approach daily scripture reading this past week?
2. What blessings or insights did you receive?

“When you pray...”

Bible Study Matthew 6:5-15 (CEB) Read aloud and discuss the following.

What?

1. What was the motivation for the hypocrites who prayed? (v. 5)
2. What instructions did Jesus give for praying? (v. 6-8)
3. What themes, are found in “The Lord’s Prayer?” (v. 9-13)
4. What difficulties or questions did you encounter as you reflected upon this famous prayer?

So What?

1. So, what reassurance do you find in this beautiful prayer?
2. So, what is challenging about the Jesus way of praying?
3. So, what is the reward that Jesus is talking about in verse 6?
4. So, what was Jesus assuming as he taught the disciples to pray?

Now What?

1. Now that you have examined the “Lord’s Prayer,” what do you see in your praying that needs attention?
2. Will you be a “hearer” and merely learn about prayer, or will you be a “doer” and actually pray as Jesus taught?
3. What step(s) will you take to become more fully devoted to praying as Jesus instructed?

Closing

*Holy One,
There is something I wanted to tell you,
but there have been errands to run,
bills to pay,
arrangements to make,
meetings to attend,
friends to entertain,
washing to do...
and I forget what it is I wanted to say to you,
and mostly I forget what I’m about, or why.
Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace**