

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 9, 2008

Passage: Luke 5:33-39

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:17

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:33-35.** What technical issue do the Pharisees bring up to attempt to discredit Jesus?
- (b) What was a common concern with the Pharisees (Matthew 6:1, 6:16; Luke 18:9; Luke 10:29)? Why did they do this? What did they receive from it?
- (c) What does Paul say about his concern in Galatians 1:10? What does Proverbs 29:25 warn us? What concern should guide our lives?
- (d) Read Luke 18:9-14. What did the Pharisee do to be right before God? What did he do that was sin before God?
- (e) What was the heart attitude of the publican? What does God look at (1 Samuel 16:7; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)?
- (f) *Family* Read Luke 5:33-35 and James 4:6. Why did these Pharisees fast? How does God respond when we do the right things for the wrong reason? What is God mainly concerned about? Talk about some things that we might be doing simply out of habit instead of out of our hearts. Pray that your heart might desire to please God in your life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:33-35.** What warning does Paul give regarding fasting (1 Timothy 4:1-3; Colossians 2:20-21)?
- (b) Is fasting unique to Christianity (Acts 23:21)? Why did these men fast? What are some wrong reasons to fast?
- (c) According to Isaiah 58:5-8, what should be the way we fast? What kinds of things are called a “fast” in this passage? What does this also show us about what God desires?
- (d) When were the Jews *required* to fast (Leviticus 16:29-31)? What were the Pharisees requiring?
- (e) What should be our *primary* reason for fasting or not fasting (Romans 14:3-6)? Is fasting *commanded* anywhere in the New Testament?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 5:36-39 and Romans 14:3-6. What kinds of things really please God (Isaiah 58:5-8)? Talk about ways that you can participate in this “chosen fast.” Pray for Him to show you some ways to honor Him by serving others.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:33-35.** Why didn't the disciples of Jesus fast (Isaiah 62:5; John 3:28-29)?
- (b) What would you think of someone who refused to celebrate the wedding of a dear friend? How did Jesus apply this picture to the Pharisee's question?
- (c) *When* will the disciples fast? When did the early church fast (Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14:23; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 6:5; 2 Corinthians 11:27)?
- (d) What do these tell you about some reasons Christians might fast? What are some other reasons?
- (e) An excellent book on fasting is *A Hunger for God* by John Piper. In it, he says that Christians have a “fasting that is feasting.” Why would this be? How would this change our outlook on fasting?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 5:36-39 and discuss some of the reasons that Christians might fast? Pray that you might be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in knowing when to fast and that you might be willing to seek God more than any other desire during those times.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 5:36-39.** What two examples does Jesus give to show the foolishness of attempting to retain the old?
- (b) What did wine symbolize in Judaism (Ecclesiastics 9:7; Isaiah 24:11; Jeremiah 48:33)?
- (c) How important was it to God that His people had joy in Him (Deuteronomy 28:47)? Where does our joy come from (Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 21:1; Isaiah 35:2, 10; Isaiah 51:3, 11)?
- (d) Why did Israel rejoice in 2 Chronicles 20:27? How does their victory compare to what we have in Christ (Isaiah 52:9; Isaiah 66:5; Hebrews 3:18)?
- (e) What did Paul say about the believer's joy (Philippians 4:4; also Psalm 34:1-3)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 5:36-39 and Philippians 4:4. John Piper has said, “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” and “The chief end of man is to glorify God *by enjoying* Him forever.” What does he mean? How would these statements relate to what Jesus was saying? Pray that your hearts might overflow with the joy of the Lord every day!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 8:6-18.** What does the writer say about the nature of the Old Covenant? How is the new better?
- (b) What do these verses tell us about the Old Covenant compared to the New (Matthew 11:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 21:5; Hebrews 10:1-14)?
- (c) Why would someone who had experienced the new covenant ever want to go back to the old?
- (d) What is new about this new covenant that will not fit into the old wine skins (Ephesians 2:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Corinthians 47)?
- (e) What else will not fit in this new covenant (Galatians 4:3-5; Philippians 3:2-14) How does this apply to the question of the Pharisees?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 8:6-18, Revelation 21:5 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 and talk about the ways that the new covenant is better than the old. Spend time praising God for all that He has given in Jesus!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 5:33-39. What have you learned this week about fasting? Why should we do it? When should we fast? How should we fast? What is more important than fasting? How is our joy in the Lord our strength? Pray that God's Word might cause His people to rejoice in Him tomorrow morning!

DATE: March 9, 2008

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Absolute Authority

“Behold, I make all things new.”