

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share with one another what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will first explain how to have a quiet time. Then we will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM JOHN 1:1 – 4:22.

(S) **POINT 1. HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME AND SHARE**

Have a time of fellowship with God or quiet time every day of the week from one of the seven assigned Bible passages. An easy quiet time method is called "The favourite truth" method. It has 5 steps. Step 1. Pray and ask God to speak to you. Step 2. Read one of the seven assigned passages. Step 3. Choose your favourite truth. It is the truth, verse or passage through which God is speaking to you, stimulating your thinking or touching your heart. Step 4. Meditate on your favourite truth. Meditate by doing the following four things. First. *Think* about the meaning of words. Second. *Ask* God what he intends to say to you. Third. *Relate* your favourite truth to your life by making a practical application. Fourth. *Write* the most important thoughts of your meditation in a notebook so that you may share them with others. Step 5. Pray your favourite truth for yourself. Then pray your favourite truth for someone in your family. Then pray your favourite truth for someone nearby. And finally, pray your favourite truth for someone far away. When you meet together with one friend or with other Christians in a house fellowship or discipleship group, take turns to share the meditation of one of your quiet times. You may also try to answer some questions from the assigned passages.

(T) **POINT 2. SHARING FROM JOHN 1:1 – 4:22**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from John 1:1 to 4:22. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

Sharing quiet times from John chapter 1.

(S) I want to share from John 1:1 about the Word. Why is Jesus Christ called "the Word"? In ordinary life we use "words" to express our thoughts. Every word serves two purposes: First. A word gives expression to an inner thought, the soul of a person, even though no one else hears it. Second. A word reveals this inner thought or soul of the speaker to others. Jesus Christ is called "the Word", because he *expresses* or reflects the mind of God and because he *reveals* God to man.

(T) I want to share some things that are said about Jesus Christ as "the Word".

First. John 1:1 says "The Word was with God and the Word was God". The word "with" expresses a very close relationship and intimate friendship between God the Father and Jesus the Son. Jesus was not "a god" or "another god", but *fully God*. God is *one* divine nature, but has *three* inner distinctions.

Second. John 1:2-3 says "He was from the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." This means that although Jesus Christ created everything that exists, he himself was never created. He existed eternally.

Third. John 1:4-5 says "The life in Jesus was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." "Life" expresses God's glorious attributes like holiness, love, truth, omnipotence, sovereignty, etc. When this life is manifested, it is called "light". But "darkness" refers to fallen mankind, who has become darkened by sin and unbelief. Jesus Christ came into the world of man and revealed who God really was to man, but *the majority of people did not accept him or his revelation*.

Fourth. John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." *Although Jesus Christ is God, he became a human being*. He did not stop being God. Besides being God, Jesus also took on a human nature. Therefore, Jesus Christ has two natures. He is God and he is man. The apostle John witnessed how Jesus lived and worked on earth and how he spoke and listened to people. Many people carefully watched him and saw God's glory shining through the veil of his human nature. God's glory is the radiance of God's attributes and the manifestation of God's awesome presence.

Fifth. John 1:17 says "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." There was nothing wrong with the Moral Law or the Ceremonial Law in the Old Testament. However, the purpose of the Law was never to save, but to prepare the way of the Saviour. The Law foreshadowed the reality that would come later. Especially the Moral Law revealed how sinful and lost all people are. And especially the sacrifices of the Ceremonial Law were a type foreshadowing the real sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The Law could not

supply grace. It could not forgive sins. It could not help in times of need. The Law could not supply truth, that is, the reality. It only supplied the shadows or types. But *Jesus Christ merited grace and fulfilled the types.*

John 1:18 says, "The only begotten God made God known". The second person of the Trinity is the only one qualified to be the Interpreter of the fullness of God. If God had not revealed himself to us, no man on earth could have known anything about God! *Jesus Christ came to earth to make the invisible living God known to us!*

(S) I want to share from John 1:39 about becoming a follower of Jesus. Two people followed Jesus. Jesus turned around and asked them, "What do you want?" They answered, "Teacher, where are you staying?" Jesus could have given his address to them, but instead he said to them, "*Come and see.*" Jesus does not simply give me facts about himself, but he invites me into his life. He says, come and see *where* I live. Come and see *how* I live. Come and see *why* I live. And the two disciples went and saw. And they continued to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives! I also went and saw. And also I continue to follow Jesus. I have never regretted my decision to follow Jesus Christ. Getting involved in the life of Jesus is the greatest adventure and the greatest satisfaction in life!

(T) I want to share from John 1:49 about the Son of God. The term "Son of God" does NOT refer to a common misunderstanding that Jesus is a physical son of God. It rather expresses the thought that the invisible God himself took on the human nature and entered into his creation and into human history in and through Jesus. The Bible speaks of three kinds of "sons".

First. *The term "son" refers to a physical son or descendant.* John 3:6 says, "Flesh gives birth to flesh." It says that a physical child is born from physical parents. Although Jesus was born as a physical person from his physical mother, *the virgin* Mary, his physical nature was NOT derived from any physical father. Jesus was not begotten in any physical sense, because God does not have a body. The physical body of Christ is not God's body. The Holy Spirit created the physical body of Jesus (Luke 1:35). Jesus possesses the human nature, but he was absolutely without sin.

Second. *The term "son" refers to a spiritual son.* John 3:6 also says, "The Spirit gives birth to spirit." The Bible clearly differentiates between a physical son and a spiritual son. Jesus is not the physical son of God, but the spiritual Son of God. Jesus possesses the essential divine nature of God.

Third. *The term "son" refers to a symbolic son.* Luke 16:8 calls the Christians "sons of the light", which means that their essential characteristics are "light" and they belong to people that walk in the light. Likewise, Jesus Christ is called "the Son of God", because he expresses the essential divine nature and characteristics of God.

Conclusion. Thus, the term "the Son of God" expresses the fact that the *invisible* God revealed himself in the *visible* God by taking on the human nature through the virgin Mary and entering into this creation and this human history.

Sharing quiet times from John chapter 2.

(S) I want to share a lesson from the wedding. In John chapter 1, I saw how Jesus invited people into his life. He said, "Come and see." and "Follow me." People went and saw. People followed Jesus. And these people got to know who Jesus was, how he lived and why he lived. Here in John chapter 2, I see how Jesus also involves himself in other people's lives. He attended their weddings. He accepted their invitations and ate with Pharisees and tax collectors. He went to their places of work. He went into their houses, healed their sick and taught them his word. In this way Jesus got very well acquainted with who the people were, how they lived and what they lived for. Jesus gives me a very important example to follow. I should invite people into my life, into my house and family, into my church fellowship, so that they can come and see who Christians are, how Christians live and what they live for. But I should also get involved in the lives of non-Christians, so that I can get to know non-Christians as well as have an opportunity to influence them within their spheres of life.

(T) I want to share from John 2:19 about the destruction of the temple. Why does Jesus say "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days?" Jesus had just driven the merchants out of the temple area with a whip and by overturning their tables. The Jews were furious and demanded that Jesus show a miraculous sign to prove his authority to do such things. So Jesus gave them a riddle. He said that when *they* had destroyed the temple, *he* would build it up again in three days! The words of Jesus have two meanings: The word "destroy" can refer to *tearing down* buildings as well as to *destroying* the human body. The word "temple" can refer to *the building called a temple* as well as to *the human body as a temple*. The word "raise" can refer to *reconstructing* buildings as well as to *raising* a dead body. The Jews and even the disciples of Jesus did not understand that Jesus was using a riddle. Such riddles were very common in the Hebrew culture. The real intention of Jesus was to say, "When you destroy my body on the cross, you will also destroy your own temple building in Jerusalem together with all the religious practises connected with it! Nevertheless, in three days I will stand up out of the dead and as a result I will establish a new spiritual temple, the Church, in which people will worship God in spirit and in truth." Jesus clearly teaches that the Old Testament type and the New Testament reality belong together. The Old Testament temple was *symbolically* the place in which God dwelt. The physical body of Jesus Christ is in a far superior sense *literally* the place in which God dwells. Colossians 2:9 says, "In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." Finally, also the Christian Church as the Body of Christ is in a

superior sense the place in which God dwells. Ephesians 2:22 says that all believers “are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Jesus was prophesying the end of the Old Testament covenant and forms of worship and he was prophesying the beginning of the New Testament covenant and forms. Both would take place at the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Sharing quiet times from John chapter 3.

(S) From John 3:3-8 I want to answer the question “How does a person enter into the kingdom of God?” Jesus says, “No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” And he says, “No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.” To be born again is the only way to see the reality of God’s kingdom and the only way to enter God’s kingdom. First. What does it mean to be born again? You are born again when the Holy Spirit works in your mind and heart to understand the truth, causes you to repent of your sins and causes you to believe that Jesus Christ died in your place to make atonement for your sins. In John 1:12-13, Jesus says that regeneration takes place in connection with believing in Jesus Christ and receiving him into your life. When you believe in him and receive him, he gives you the right to become a child of God. Then you are born not of natural descent, but spiritually born of God. From then onwards, the Holy Spirit lives in your body. Second. *How* are you born again? In John 3, Jesus says that regeneration is a work of God over which you have no more control than you have over the wind. Regeneration is sovereign, incomprehensible and mysterious. Thus, to be born again is a sovereign work of God as well as a gift of God.

(T) I want to share from John 3:16, which says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his One and Only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” God loves the world. The world consists of fallen mankind. All people, from every tribe, colour, nation and language have sinned and are lost. God proves his love to the world by giving Jesus to die on the cross. He gave Jesus as a sacrifice for sin to pay the penalty for sin. Whoever believes in Jesus Christ shall have eternal life. When I heard this for the first time, I was very glad that the Bible said “whoever”. Eternal life was not just for Jews who believe, not just for respectable people who believe, but for *whoever* believes! It does not matter who I was before or what I had done in the past. I was one of the “whoever” people. I believed and on that day I received eternal life!

Sharing quiet times from John chapter 4.

(S) I want to share what I learn from the way Jesus wins the Samaritan woman to faith. First. The Samaritan woman regarded Jesus as merely a Jew. Jesus spoke in a friendly way to the woman about things she understood. Starting with the *familiar* “water”, Jesus talked about the *unfamiliar* “living water”, which would become a spring of life in her. Jesus was talking about eternal life, which the Holy Spirit gives in the heart. She began to be interested to possess that living water. *Faith was kindled in her heart.* Second. When Jesus changed the subject and asked her to bring her husband, then she also changed her view of Jesus. Jesus had exposed her sin. She already had five husbands - probably most through divorces. And at that time was living together with someone who was not her husband. By exposing her sin, Jesus was preparing her heart to receive the gift of salvation. The woman now regarded Jesus as a prophet, who knew what was in her heart. *Her faith was growing!* Third. In order to avoid painful reminders of her sinful conduct, she changed the subject. Maybe she began to regret her sinful condition and wondered where she should really worship God. Whatever was the case, Jesus answered that what is important is *not “where” she worships, but “who” she worships and “how” she worships!* Jesus predicted that very soon people would not worship God in the temple of Jerusalem or in any other building. The true worshippers from every nation in the world would worship God, not only in a building, but everywhere. They would not worship any god, but worship God the Father, who revealed himself in Jesus Christ. They would not worship God through animal sacrifices, as they were used to, but they would worship God in spirit and in truth. Fourth. Then Jesus revealed himself to her as the Messiah and she believed in him. *Her faith finally found the only true and living God!* Fifth. When other Samaritans heard the woman’s testimony, they came out to see and hear Jesus. After hearing the preaching of Jesus, they professed, “We know that Jesus is really the Saviour of the world.” *Personal contact with Jesus is absolutely necessary to make faith complete!*

(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Divide John 4:23 to 7:53 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www. etc

Third. Listen on short wave radio from SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.