

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a believer in Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this sixth series, the Bible teaches how Christians prepare themselves for marriage. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: FOR A CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE BOTH MUST HAVE THE RIGHT PRIORITIES.

(S) POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Matthew 6:33. We will meditate the truths in the Bible together.

The memorisation verse is: Right priorities. Matthew 6:33. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well".

(T) First, God determines all the important activities for Christians.

According to the Bible, the four very important areas of life are your work, your relationship to God, your family and your service for God. Let us take turns to share what the Bible teaches about these four important areas.

The first important area of life is our daily work.

Four Bible verses teach the boundaries God sets for our daily work.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 says, "We gave you this rule, 'If a man will not work, he will not eat'." God expects Christians to work. If a Christian refuses to work, he also has no right to eat!

Proverbs 23:4 says, "Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint." God expects Christians to show restraint in how much time they work in order to make time for the other important things in life.

Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness." God expects Christians to seek to promote his kingdom through their work and at their working place.

Exodus 23:12 and Leviticus 23:3 say, "Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that ..." people "may be refreshed. There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly." God expects Christians to take only one day of rest from their work every week in order to get refreshed and to meet together with other Christians.

(S) The second important area of life is our relationship with God.

Four Bible verses teach the principles for our relationship with God. God wants us to do the following four things in order to develop our relationship with him.

Luke 10:38-42 relates how Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said, while Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. Martha complained that Mary was not doing her duty, but Jesus answered, "Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better." Christ expects Christians to give priority to fellowship with him above work and to make time to have fellowship with him.

John 15:5-8 teaches that we should remain in Christ, and Christ's word should remain in us. And we should pray and glorify God by bearing much fruit. Jesus warns that without him we can do nothing! Christ teaches that the Christian's personal relationship with him is indispensable!

Colossians 2:6-7 teaches that we should be rooted in Christ and built up in Christ. Christ expects Christians to make visible progress in their growth as Christians as well as to live visibly as Christians.

Luke 5:15-16 describes, "The news about Christ spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Like Christ, Christians should take some time to pray in between their work.

(T) The third important area of life is our immediate family.

Four Bible verses teach the responsibilities God has laid upon us with respect to our families.

Colossians 3:18-21 teaches the responsibilities of family members towards one another. It says, "Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." The Bible teaches that all Christians must obey the God-given family rules. Because the responsibilities of each family member is established by God himself, family members can live in harmony with one another and the Christian family will be attractive to outsiders.

In Deuteronomy 6:5-7 God teaches that parents must keep God's commands in their own hearts. They must also imprint God's commands on the minds and hearts of their children and train their children to obey these commands. In short, God expects Christians to relate in their family around God's commands. God and God's words should be the centre of every Christian family.

Ephesians 6:4 teaches, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." The most important task of every Christian parent is to bring their children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. This is not an option, but a command of God, which no one may neglect.

In 1 Timothy 5:4,8 it is written that Christians must care for the real needs of their immediate family. They must provide for the real needs of their parents and grandparents, like food, clothing and shelter. The Bible does not teach that parents may demand from their children money in order to live a luxurious life themselves. On the one hand, Christians must care for the real needs of their immediate family members. On the other hand, Christians are stewards of their possessions and must give an account to God about how they spent their money.

(S) The fourth important area of life is our service for God.

Three Bible verses teach the ministry God has given to all Christians in the world. The most important services in the church are the following:

In John 13:14-15 Jesus teaches, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Christ expects Christians to serve where no one else is willing or able to serve.

In 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, 3:2-3 we read that Christians are people who are "the aroma of Christ among people". To some they are "a fragrance of life". Christians are also people who are "a letter from Christ, ... known and read by everybody." God expects Christians to be people who exert lasting influence on people around them.

In Matthew 10:32-33 Jesus teaches that Christians should "confess him before men". Christ expects Christians to witness, preach and teach Christ to other people in the world.

(T) Second. God determines the highest priority for all Christians.

A "priority" is the interest that has the claim of first consideration. A "priority" is the interest that comes before the other interests in time, order or importance. All four areas of life that we considered above are important in God's eyes and therefore have the priority above all your other activities. You should schedule these four important areas of life first and in the best places in your daily life. Then you should devote the proper amount of time and effort to each of these four areas in your life.

Matthew 6:19-34 clearly teaches what the highest priority is for all Christians.

(S) Matthew 6:19-21 teaches that Christians should NOT store up earthly material treasures.

All the treasures on earth are temporary. All the clothes we buy get eaten up by moths. All the appliances we buy break or rust. Finally, all material things on earth will be destroyed, either by moth and rust or by the fire of the Last Judgement. Earthly material treasures cannot satisfy, because they do not last! Whoever sets his heart on the temporary earthly treasures will be disappointed. Worse, he will forfeit the enduring pleasures of heaven. Instead, Christians should store up heavenly treasures.

(T) Matthew 6:22-23 teaches that Christians should NOT allow earthly material treasures to blur their mental and moral vision.

Jesus says, "If your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness". Whoever is pre-occupied with earthly material things, will experience psychological and spiritual tensions. He will always be inwardly divided between money and the real important things. Because he never finds time to develop himself, his mental, moral and spiritual capacities will decline. He has no time left to follow God. Instead, Christians should protect their inmost life. They should set their eyes on developing their mental, moral and especially spiritual abilities.

(S) Matthew 6:24 teaches that Christians should NOT choose earthly material treasures as their "god".

Jesus says, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money". Whoever makes the earthly material things his

“god” cannot have the living God as his God! All people on earth must make a choice between Money and God! Christians should choose the living God to be their God, Lord and Controller.

(T) Matthew 6:25-32 teaches that Christians should NOT be distracted by earthly material treasures.

Jesus says, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?” The word “do not worry” in the original means “do not be anxious or unduly concerned” about the distracting cares of life. Such distracting cares of life are how to acquire food and drink, clothes and a place to live. Other distracting cares of life are how to acquire a wife or husband. Jesus teaches that whoever gets “distracted” by the earthly material treasures, has the wrong priority in life! Whoever is “divided” between the temporary earthly treasures and the eternal heavenly treasures, has not yet chosen the right priority in life! Jesus uses the example of God’s care for the birds and flowers to illustrate God’s care for the temporary earthly needs of his children. Jesus does not encourage idleness, because birds are very busy gathering their food. But Jesus implies that birds are not guilty of *overdoing a good thing*. God has given birds an instinct to gather food, to build nests, to train their young, to migrate to distant lands, etc. This means that God has created birds in such a way that he continually cares for them. Likewise God cares for flowers of the field. God has created flowers in such a way that in the spring they burst forth into beautiful flowers and seeds. Nothing man makes is as beautiful as the flowers and trees, etc. of God’s creation! Jesus teaches that if God cares for birds and flowers, which have a far lesser value than people, will he not definitely care for people, who are the crown of his creation? Jesus teaches that by being anxious, divided, distracted, people cannot lengthen their lives or change their circumstances!

People who are “little of faith” are Christians who still do not take sufficiently to heart the comfort they ought to derive from the presence, promises, power and love of Jesus.

(S) Matthew 6:33 teaches what the highest priority for Christians always and everywhere.

Gentiles, who do not believe in any heavenly Father, run after the temporal material treasures on earth. They make materialism the consuming desire of their hearts. They spend all their time and effort to make money or to become rich. Christians should be completely different. They should not be anxious about their earthly needs, because God cares for these. Christians should not be afraid. Christians should trust God. Christians should not get distracted by materialism, because there is a much higher goal in life. Jesus says that *the highest priority for Christians is “to seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness”*. God’s kingdom is God’s sovereign rule in the hearts and lives of Christians. And God’s righteousness is both *the righteousness that God imputes* (ascribes) to Christians when they believe in the completed salvation work of Jesus Christ and *the righteousness that God imparts* to Christians by sanctification. “To seek” means to diligently search to obtain God’s kingdom, to continuously and strenuously advance God’s kingdom and to persistently give God the highest priority in every area of life! Thus, Christians should acknowledge God as the only King in their hearts and lives. Christians should also do all in their power to make God the King in the hearts and lives of other people, and in every sphere of life: in education, government, commerce, industry, science, etc. And Christians should make God the One who governs their relationship to the opposite sex. Jesus promises that whoever seeks first God’s kingdom and righteousness, will also be given his basic needs, like food and clothing. Likewise, whoever commits his life to God, may expect that God will lead him into whatever is the best for his life, either to remain single or to marry.

(T) **POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is “Right priorities”.

Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is Matthew 6:33. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(S) Let us memorise the Bible verse together.

(T+S) Right priorities: Matthew 6:33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.

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(S) Right priorities: Matthew 6:33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33.

(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.
Series “Christian character”, verse 5 and series “Christian preparation for marriage” verses 1-4.

(S) God’s healing: 2 Chronicles 7:14. If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14.

(T) Both believers: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14.

(S) Same life-goals: Amos 3:3. Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3.

(T) Self-control: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

(S) Proper timing: Ecclesiastes 8:5-6. The wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter. Ecclesiastes 8:5-6.

(T) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.