

RESETTING OUR LIVES AROUND WHAT REALLY MATTERS

GENESIS 1:27; MATTHEW 1:20-23; 7:24-27

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JANUARY 8, 2023

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:27 ESV

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Matthew 1:20-23 ESV

20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel!”

Matthew 7:24-27 ESV

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

SERMON RECAP

Foundational Questions and Answers for Today

1. Who am I?
 - I am a man or a woman personally made by God in His image to enjoy and exalt Him in all of His glory.
2. What is wrong in the world?
 - Every human (except for one) has sinned against God, marring God’s image in us, and warranting God’s judgment forever.
3. How can it be made right?
 - God has made a way through Jesus for us to be saved from our sin and restored to relationship with Him and for all creation to be completely redeemed.
4. How can I experience life to the full, now and forever?
 - By walking with God through praying, fasting, and hearing and obeying God’s Word.

Practical Steps to Guide Daily Living

PRAY	FAST	MAPS
Praise: Worship God for who He is.	Focus on God.	Meditate and Memorize: What does the Bible say? What does it mean?
Repent: Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.	Abstain from food.	Apply: How does what we read transform our thoughts (head), desires (heart), and/or actions (hands)?
Ask: Intercede for specific needs in your life and others’ lives.	Substitute that time with prayer and God’s Word.	Pray: Praise, repent, ask, and/or yield according to the Word.
Yield: Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever and however He leads you.	Taste and see that God is good.	Share: Write down your reflections and talk about them with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What does the passage say?

1. Read these passages aloud as a group and take some time to let group members share observations about them. Don't move into interpretation or application, simply share what you observe.
 - What do you see in Genesis 1:27?
 - Knowing our history of sin since Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:16-17, 3:1-6), what do you observe about Matthew 1:20-23?
 - What does Jesus desire us to do? (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - Summarize these passages in your own words.

What does the passage mean?

1. God created us in a very particular way for a very specific purpose. (Gen. 1:27)
 - What does God's creation say about Him and about us? (Psa. 139:13-16)
 - What is significant about being image-bearers of the triune God?
 - What is God's purpose for us and how does knowing Him free us to fulfill it?
2. The world is not the way God created it to be. (Matt. 1:20-23)
 - What are some ways that the world strays from God's intentions?
 - How does human desire influence disobedience, which leads to death? (Gen. 3:6)
 - What does God do to right our wrongs, and what does faith in Jesus do for us? (Matt. 1:20-23)
3. Walking with God is not a passive intention, it is an active experience. (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - How can biblical examples of obedience help us? (Gen. 5:24, 6:9; Matt 4:19, 6:6, 6:17)
 - What happens to our lives and to our relationship with God when we obey Him more fully?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How can we apply these passage to our lives?

1. Obedience is surely an expression of our faith.
 - On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your obedience?
 - What challenges do you have with obedience and how can our Church Group help you?
 - What steps can you take to grow in faith, improve your trust in, and obedience to the LORD?
2. Obedience comes from following Jesus through prayer, fasting, and studying His Word.
 - What might you do to improve your prayer life this year?
 - How might you incorporate fasting into your walk with Jesus this year?
 - How might you study and obey God's Word more fully and consistently this year?

LEADER NOTES

Church Group Leaders, please share the following information with your Church Group:

1. Looking to serve? Check out mcleanbible.org/localoutreach for ideas and to register your event, or contact us at localoutreach@mcleanbible.org for additional assistance.
2. 2023 Trips -MBC sends short-term teams to help fuel the spread of the gospel among all nations. We invite all MBC members to consider joining a short-term trip. Applications are now open for late spring and early summer trips to the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, France, Italy, the Middle East, and more! Visit mcleanbible.org/globaloutreach to see open trips and apply today!