

Jesus Curriculum

Lesson 8

Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17;

2 Corinthians 5:16-21;

Ephesians 2:14-18, 4:31-32

February 23, 2020

What is the Ministry?

Introduction

Jesus came to earth to be the ultimate peacemaker. He came to reconcile us to God through His sacrifice and to reconcile us to each other by giving us the Holy Spirit. Christ was an ambassador from God to us, and when we accept Jesus, we, in turn, become an ambassador for Jesus to the world. Our relationship with Jesus affects the way that we see others, the way that we approach relationships, and the way that we communicate with others.

Memory verse: “That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”—2 Corinthians 5:19

Pray and read Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Ephesians 2:14-18, 4:31-32.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What are we to do before we offer gifts to God?
(Matthew 5:23-24)

2. If we see a fellow believer sinning, how are we first to approach them? How are we to approach them the second time? And the third time? (Matthew 18:15-17)

3. What ministry did God give us? How did he do this? (2 Corinthians 5:18)

4. How does the reconciliation that comes through Christ affect the way that God sees our sin? (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

5. How did Christ make peace between Jews and Gentiles? What was the purpose of this unification? (Ephesians 2:11-16)

6. Of what are we commanded to rid ourselves? (Ephesians 4:31)

What does the passage mean?

1. When we see a fellow believer sinning, why are we instructed to first approach them one-on-one? Why is bringing it to the church the last resort and not the first resort? (Matthew 18:15-17)

2. Sometimes we think of the Holy Spirit as an influence rather than a person, but Paul said to be careful to not “grieve” the Holy Spirit, which shows that the Holy Spirit is a person and experiences emotions. What kind of words would sadden (grieve) the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit? What kind of words would the Holy Spirit prefer us to use? (Ephesians 4:29-30)

3. What does it mean to see people from a worldly point of view? How is this different than seeing people Jesus wants us to see them? How has our reconciliation through Jesus affected the way that we see each other? (2 Corinthians 5:16)

4. Christ saved us by reconciling us to God. What does Jesus expect us to do with that message in the world? What does it mean to be Christ’s ambassadors? (2 Corinthians 5:20)

5. Why did Jesus talk about the importance of interpersonal relationships when He told us that we should postpone and interrupt a sacrifice at the altar to go and make amends in our relationships? Why do you think that Jesus spoke about this right after He talked about the dangers of antagonistic relationships? (Matthew 5:23-24)

Applying the passage

1. How does it affect you when you hear other people use foul language, speak disparagingly of others, or explode in anger? How do you think it affects others when you do this? Write down three times that you have seen this happen recently and the effect that it had on those who heard the angry words. (Ephesians 5:29-31)

