

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 24, 2008

Passage: Luke 11:37-54

Memory Passage: Proverbs 4:23

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 11:37-40.** What were the Pharisees trying to do to Jesus? In light of this, why is it surprising that Jesus even went to this man's home? What does this teach us about evangelism?
- (b) What issue does the Pharisee immediately raise? Read Matthew 15:1-11. What similar issue occurs here? What had the Pharisees made their priority in life? How had that affected the way they responded to God's Word (Matthew 15:3)?
- (c) How did it affect their heart (Matthew 15:8)? What caution does this give us about traditions?
- (d) What conflict did Jesus point out to the Pharisees in Luke 11? Compare this to Matthew 23:25-28. Summarize the dangers of legalism. How can we avoid slipping into this?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 11:37-40 and 2 Timothy 3:5. Talk about traditions. What makes them good? How can they help us? What is dangerous about them? How can we keep our focus on what God says rather than what man says? Pray that you would have the discernment to examine every tradition on the basis of God's Word.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 11:41-42.** What are "alms" and "tithes"? What is the difference between them? Why are both important?
- (b) What did Jesus say about giving alms in Matthew 6:1-4? What does Proverbs 19:17 tell us (also Proverbs 29:7; 28:27)?
- (c) What part of the Pharisees' giving did Jesus condemn? Did he condemn the giving of tithes? What did he say (also Matthew 23:23)?
- (d) What are we doing when we give a tithe (Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 1:6; Malachi 3:8-10)? What promises does God give to those who honor Him with the tithe?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 11:41-42 and Proverbs 3:9-10. What is the disciple's responsibility in giving? What had the Pharisees done wrong with their giving? What is biblical giving? Thank God for all He has given you and commit yourself to be a cheerful giver.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 11:43-44.** For what does Jesus criticize the Pharisees in this passage? How did this affect their giving and their praying (Matthew 6:1-5)?
- (b) Read Luke 14:7-11. What practical warning did Jesus give his disciples? What spiritual principle did he apply?
- (c) How can believers prevent pride from becoming part of our lives (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; James 2:2-4)?
- (d) What warnings do Proverbs 16:18 and Proverbs 29:23 give us?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 11:43-44 and Proverbs 16:18. Discuss pride. How does it affect our relationship with people? How does it affect our relationship with God? How can we protect ourselves from pride? Ask the Lord to show you areas of pride that might be hidden in your life.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 11:45-52.** Why was the lawyer offended? How does truth bring conviction in people's hearts?
- (b) What was the particular sin of the lawyers that Jesus pointed out (verse 46; also Matthew 23:4)? What was their motivation (Galatians 6:13-14)? What was Paul's desire?
- (c) What did Jesus say their fathers had done to the prophets? What did Jesus also say about the "wisdom of God" in prophesying these things? What does this tell us about the trustworthiness of God's Word?
- (d) How did the lawyers "take away the key to knowledge"? How did it affect them spiritually? How did it affect others (Matthew 23:13)? Why would Jesus condemn them for this (James 3:1)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 11:45-52 and Galatians 6:14. What did the lawyers do that hindered others from entering the Kingdom? Are there things you do that hinder others spiritually? Pray for the salvation of someone today.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 11:53-54.** How did the scribes and Pharisees respond to the things that Jesus said to them? What does this tell us about their hearts?
- (b) What is the Lord's promise to us when we find ourselves in such situations (Psalm 37:32-33)?
- (c) Read Proverbs 1:23-33. What does God promise if we will respond to His rebukes? What does He say He will do if we do not respond?
- (d) How should a disciple react to criticism (Proverbs 15:32; Proverbs 19:25; Proverbs 27:5)? What should be the disciple's heart when the Lord corrects us (Isaiah 50:5)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 11:53-54 and Isaiah 50:5. Talk about the heart of a disciple. In what ways does it differ from that of the scribes and the Pharisees? Pray that your eye may be always open to God's Word and that your heart might be open to His correction.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 11:37-54. What were some of the traditions that the Pharisees had? How did holding to those traditions hurt them spiritually? How can we be sure to keep God's Word first and our traditions second? How does our attitude in giving reveal the state of our heart? What can you do to develop a more giving heart? Pray for tomorrow's worship time that God would be honored and that hearts would be changed.

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The Disciple's Heart

"Watch over your heart with all diligence..."