

Reading assignment for October 15-21; Matthew 6-28

Memory: Matthew 22:37-39 "Jesus said to him, "you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

CONSIDER

1. Commit to service that has eternal importance (chapters 6-7, 10-11)
 - A. In chapter 6 we are encouraged to live before the audience of one. Our ministry may be performed before men, but the only audience we need to be concerned about is God.
 - B. In chapter 7 we are encouraged to build out life on the sure foundation of God's Word and focus on things important to God and passionately pursue them.
 - C. Paraphrase the responsibilities and expectations Jesus gave His followers in chapter 10. Let this chapter encourage you to not waste your life on the mundane, but to commit your life to the cause of Christ. What is the meaning of Jesus statement "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it." (10:39)
 - D. A primary lesson in chapter 11 is: *Uncommon commitment produces uncommon results.* In this chapter Jesus pointed to John the Baptist as role model for ministry.
 - Consider these principles:
 - #1: Keep you ministry assignment in focus and remain committed to it
 - #2: "Success" in ministry is determined by our faithfulness to what He called us to do, not by how popular we are or how many people follow us.
 - #3: Do not compromise your message to appease people who need to repent.
 - Jesus invited people who were weary and overwhelmed with burdens to come to Him. Make a list of people you know personally who are overwhelmed with the problems of life. Prayerfully consider how you can effectively minister to them.
2. Describe the various ways Jesus demonstrated authority in chapters 8 and 9.
3. Parabolic teaching (Chapters 13, 19, 21 and 22)
 - A. What lessons do you glean from the following parables:
 - Parable of the sower (13:1-9)
 - Parable of the mustard seed and the leaven (13:31-33).
 - Parable of the lost sheep (18:10-14)
 - Parable of the two sons (21:28-32)
 - Parable of the wedding feast (22:1-14)
 - B. Which parable is your favorite and why?