

AT THE FEET OF JESUS (WEEK 2)

LADIES – Today is *either* a celebration of discussing what God has shown you this week, or it's a chance to delve into the study for yourself. I will have some “expanders” on the study along the way – so if your group mostly did the study you should still walk away with some new things.

But if not – hand over to God:

- **Impatience** if no one else in your group did the study this week. You get to step into a new role today that may cause you to need to depend on the Holy Spirit more deeply for mercy, meekness, and purity.
- **Disappointment** if you feel like you're just going to be re-hashing the material.
- **Anxiety** about time. Don't worry about how MUCH of the material you get through. God has an intent for you and your group today. Usually He's not in as much of a hurry as we are.

No Personal Study – If the majority of your group did not do the personal study time, do the study together. Stop and make sure your group doesn't skip the opportunity on pg. 24 to ask Jesus what he is communicating to them personally. Give the group 5-10 minutes to write, pray, journal. Then share together (for those who feel like they can). **Work your way through as much content as your group gets through, talking about it as you go. Don't try to control the pace unless it starts to get off track.**

Personal Study Questions – If the majority of your group did do the personal study, ask the questions outlined by day on this paper.

DAY 1 (PGS. 22-24)

1. Did you take time to ask the Holy Spirit to guide it before you started? Or did you just start? Why?
2. Did anyone have any questions from the Day 1 study? What are they?

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3. Was the definition of meekness the same or different than you expected? Was there anything in the Day 1 study that excited you?
4. Look up and read **Galatians 5:23**. The word “gentleness” here is the same greek word *prautes*. In the context of Galatians 5:16-21, what *is* meekness or gentleness? Where does it come from?

DAY 2 (PGS. 24-27)

1. If you did the study this week – did you take time to pray before you started? Or did you just start? Why?
2. Begin reading through the Day 2 study together. Focus on the definition of “mercy” on page 26.
3. Turn to pg. 26 if you’re not there already and look at the question at the bottom of the page. Have anyone who is willing share what they answered on those lines.
4. Read the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18.
What did you see this week? **Some information/questions that might help you as you read/process this parable:**
 - Where do the two servants in this parable live? Is it in the same kingdom or different kingdoms?
 - A debt of 10,000 talents would take 60,000,000 days of work to pay off. An impossible sum.
 - In this parable the king forgives an impossible debt for a servant who then turns around and demands payment from his fellow servant. What is the king’s/God’s response to that?

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DAY 3 (PGS. 28-32)

1. Did anyone have any questions from the Day 3 study? What are they?
2. Was there anything you got excited about or that God showed you specifically from Day 3?
3. What is it that you noticed about all the people that came to Jesus on pages 28-29? What did they all have?

OK, now for a little fun if you've gotten this far 😊

PURITY - Let's focus in on this scene in John 13:8 where Jesus is washing his disciples feet. This is the night before Jesus is betrayed (by Judas) and crucified. Jesus has power to call on the angels to come and intervene but he doesn't.... **because his power is submitted to God's plan and purposes** (which is what, ladies?? _____).

He chooses (under his father's direction), instead, to wash his disciples' feet – knowing that Judas will be the one to betray him. This act of washing the disciples' feet which is a symbol of his spiritual purification of them - it doesn't purify Judas (Judas is who Jesus means when he says “not every one of you” in John 13:8). Why? What is Judas missing?

Proximity to Jesus does not equal a relationship with or faith in Jesus. Neither does coming to church make you part of the true church. The true church of Jesus Christ is only made up of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sin and submitted their lives to his direction. And **only those who live life with God and have placed their trust in Him for the forgiveness of their sin are in relationship with Him.** What does it look like to live life with God?

How important and precious is genuine faith to God? (1 Peter 1:7). How does God test and prove whether or not we have a genuine faith? (1 Peter 1:7-10)

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We learned in the questions on Day 2 that **MEEKNESS** is a fruit of the Spirit. The Spirit of God **only** lives in those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. (Galatians 5:23).

MERCY – is not a fruit of the Spirit, but when we exercise it, we are reflecting God’s character as He shows mercy to us. **So it can only be used when we have, by faith, received mercy from God for ourselves.** We cannot show God’s mercy to someone else if we have not received it ourselves.

PURITY – The meekness and mercy we try to give others, can only be given from a pure heart and that heart (in order to be pure) must be motivated by only one thing. Look up the following verses. Matthew 22:34-40. These are called the “Greatest Commandments” in the New Testament because ALL of the rest of the commands of the Bible fall into these, two categories.

So, the heart *purified* by **CHRIST** through faith, given *mercy* because of **CHRIST**, can then exercise *meekness* through **CHRIST**. But it all has to begin with who.....