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CD 601

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Passage Analysis Assignment

1) Luke 17:1-10

- a) Subject: Why does Jesus tell us to forgive others?
 - b) Complement: Forgiveness is obedience to God.
 - c) Main Idea: Jesus tells believers to forgive others because forgiveness is obedience to God.
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2) Isaiah 7:1-17

- a) Train of thought: Judah was under attack by the kings of Aram and Israel. The king of Judah, Ahaz, was told and he and the people of Judah were afraid. Then God spoke to the prophet Isaiah to go with his son Shear to meet Ahaz and tell him to be calm and not afraid. God proceeded to tell Ahaz that the countries that are against him want to divide the land and place a king over it. However, God made it clear that Judah will be fine and that the countries against Judah will be diminished as long as Ahaz stands firm in his faith in God. Then God said to Ahaz to ask for a sign, but Ahaz refused because he believed he would be putting God to the test if he asked for a sign. Isaiah the prophet proceeded to tell Ahaz that he should have ceased the opportunity to ask God for a sign. So God

proceeded to ordain a sign himself, which would be the miraculous birth of a baby from the womb of a virgin and the baby would be named Immanuel. The child will be able to discern between good and bad in the world by the time he is a preteen/12 years old. And before that amount of time, the opposing kings will be gone. However, God will bring Assyria against Judah in the future and those times will be worse than what Judah was dealing with.

- b) **Subject**: What does God tell us when we are afraid and in times of trouble?
- c) **Complement**: God tells us to have faith in him.
- d) **Main Idea**: God sees our hardships and even knows how we feel, but we are told by God to trust him in our times of need.

3) **1 Peter 5:1-4**

- a) **Train of thought**: Peter is giving advice as an apostle to other elders since he was one of the twelve who spent time with Jesus before Jesus' ascension to heaven. Even though Christ suffered, he revealed that there is glory to come for those who follow him. All that follow Christ will share in the glory to come when Jesus takes the church, but in the meantime, elders should make sure that they are leading God's people and taking care of them out of the same willingness that God displays as Jesus giving himself up. That same willingness that Jesus had shown was to fulfill God's will. Not for gaining riches of the earth or to display his own power but to be an example to those that would call themselves his people. And Jesus himself will reward those who follow his example.
- b) **Subject**: Why did Jesus want to be an example for his followers?
- c) **Complement**: Jesus' example was made to encourage his followers to persevere.

d) **Main Idea**: Jesus left an example for his followers to understand what it means to sacrifice and willfully take care of others as a shepherd takes care of their sheep.

4) **Psalm 131**

a) **Train of Thought**: David talks about something that the Lord desires for those who follow him. In David's heart, he is not proud and he does not look down on others arrogantly. He also does not claim that he can do great, big things. David has himself relaxed, confiding in God and trusting God as a child does when they are weaning with their mother. David makes known that all of Israel should follow his example and put their trust in God for all their days.

b) **Subject**: What does David learn from knowing God?

c) **Complement**: David learns that trusting God brings contentment.

d) **Main Idea**: David learned from spending time with God that God desires for his people to be humble and trust in him, rather than be arrogant and reject him.

5) **Matthew 18:15-20**

a) **Train of Thought**: Jesus explains to his followers that sin must be dealt with honestly. First however, Jesus says that the sin should be pointed out between an individual that notices the sin and the sinner themselves. Once the sinner admits to their sin and repents, then the matter is settled. But if they don't admit it and repent, then a few people together will approach them and make known that the one sinning should repent. And if they still don't repent after that, the congregation is to be told. If they don't repent even after the congregation knows, then that one sinner is to be treated as one who does not know the faith; with understanding to be helped to know Jesus. Jesus proceeds to make known that the

prayers offered up for those who have repented loosen spiritual and physical bonds, and that Jesus will be present in the midst of these kinds of confrontations.

- b) **Subject**: How do we approach sin in the church?
- c) **Complement**: Jesus tells us to approach sin with honesty and understanding.
- d) **Main Idea**: Jesus knows that being able to approach someone who has sinned in the church may be uncomfortable, but it must be confronted and dealt with accordingly.

6) **Esther**

- a) **Train of thought**: The story of queen Esther begins where Queen Vashti must be replaced since the king, Xerxes, does not want her as a wife any longer because she refused to follow along with the king's command. Esther, among other young women are gathered to be prepared and then from among them, one is to be chosen as the new wife of the king. Esther is picked. Mordecai, Esther's uncle, told Esther to keep her background a secret and she followed that. In the meanwhile, Mordecai discovered a conspiracy about two people who wanted to assassinate the king. Mordecai reported it and it was found to be true.
- b) **Subject**: Does God honor and protect those who serve him?
- c) **Complement**: God does honor and protect those who serve him.
- d) **Main Idea**: God is an active God, and it takes faith evidenced by actions to honor him. God in turn shows that he honors those who honor him.

7) **Hebrews 13:5-6**

- a) **Train of Thought**: The writer to the Hebrews talks about something that has been prevalent in the teachings of Jesus and the church. Those in the early church were

warned to not love money, not because money itself is evil, but because wealth can become an idol. So, the way to deal with that temptation is to be content with what God has given to us. But the most important possession we have is the intangible presence of God, which is through our relationship with him. God himself has said that he will never leave us or forsake us, so we can have hope and trust him that he will be with us and help us in our times of need.

- b) **Subject**: Why are we told not to love wealth or money?
- c) **Complement**: A relationship with God far exceeds earthly wealth.
- d) **Main Idea**: The love of money leads to a lack of a relationship with God, while loving God leads to contentment even with just a little wealth because God is with us always even in our times of need.

8) **Daniel 4**

- a) **Train of Thought**: King Nebuchadnezzar had a vision that he had Daniel interpret. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that the dream was about the king, that he has grown like a great and strong tree but the Lord is set to humble him by making him as the wild animals of the field. After Daniel gave the interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar and told him the time that would pass, the dream came true.
- b) **Subject**: Why did God give king Nebuchadnezzar a dream?
- c) **Complement**: To have Daniel interpret the dream and subsequently humble Nebuchadnezzar.
- d) **Main Idea**: God has a way of humbling even the strongest, most powerful individuals on the planet. God shows all that he can bein

9) **Luke 8:1-18**

a) Train of Thought: Jesus is continuing to preach the message that the kingdom of God is near. He is also showing the kingdom of God through the people who have followed him; some who were cured and others who were delivered from demonic entities. This is evidenced also from the different ways that the people supported Jesus' ministry, one individual is a wife of the manager of a governor's household. Jesus shared a parable about a farmer sowing scattered seeds. All of the seeds, having fallen in different directions and on different parts of the land have different outcomes. There were seeds that fell on a path which were eaten up by birds, seeds that fell on rocky ground that withered due to lack of soil, seeds that fell on thorns which were choked as they grew, and seeds that fell on good soil that yielded crops. Jesus beckons for all people that hear him to listen well, and the disciples proceed to ask him what the parable means. Jesus' reply was to first tell the disciples that he will help them understand because knowledge of the kingdom of God has been shown to them while others that don't know Jesus must intentionally listen to Jesus to understand what his parables mean because they either do or don't want to actually learn what Jesus is teaching. Jesus explains the parable by saying that the seed being sown by the farmer is the word of God. The seeds that fell on that path are like people who hear the word of God but do not receive it because the devil has deprived them of understanding via lies and deception. The seeds that fell among the rocky ground are like people who receive the word, but have no established foundation to allow that word to grow fully, causing them to revert back to non-believers. The seeds that fall among the thorns are like people who hear the word, but allow the problems in the world to

change their mind and cause them to doubt which doesn't allow them to spiritually grow. Finally, the seeds that fall on good soil are people who hear the word and allow it to grow by persevering and applying it to their lives fully. Jesus goes on to say that the light that shines in a believer is like a lamp brimming with light in a dark room. Whoever is let into that room can clearly see the light, and anything hidden in the room will be shown. As believers, we must carefully observe how we follow Christ because others can see what we have so clearly; a relationship with God through Christ. And whoever is not truthful in that manner will be shown wrong and whoever is being truthful is going to be shown true.

- b) **Subject**: What is Jesus saying about those who follow him?
- c) **Complement**: Jesus is saying that the ones who truly follow him will reproduce that which was sown in them.
- d) **Main Idea**: Following Jesus means showing the light that he has given us. It is not meant to be hidden, but to be shared and reproduced.

10) **1 Thessalonians 1:2-10**

- a) **Train of Thought**: The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, commending them for their faith in Jesus that they have shown. There were hardships and difficulties that they have gone through. Paul testifies that God chose the people of the Thessalonian church because of how the Holy Spirit moved them to repentance and conviction. Paul and other believers lived among the Thessalonians, helping them to learn from the example that was to be set for believers to imitate despite their difficulties. Paul knew that setting the example was successfully done because the surrounding regions of Macedonia and Achaia

and more had heard and spread the word of the living faith of the Thessalonians. The report of their faith was given to them by others who witnessed the transformation of the Macedonians who used to serve idols and instead began serving God as followers of Jesus.

- b) **Subject**: What happened to the Thessalonian church?
- c) **Complement**: The Thessalonians were transformed from idol worshippers to serving God as followers of Jesus.
- d) **Main Idea**: The Holy Spirit moved the Thessalonians so clearly that the surrounding regions testified of their living faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is evident through actions, not words.

11) **Matthew 18:21-35**

- a) **Train of Thought**: Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who sins against him. He thought he was generous when he said up to seven times, but Jesus' answer was to go beyond that way of thinking. That is why Jesus began to share a parable which started with a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. There was a servant who had owed the king thousands of bags of gold, and the king said that the servant should give up all that he had including his family to pay the debt. But the servant asked for mercy and patience, and instead the king simply cancelled the debt and let the servant go. However, after being sent free from his debt, the servant found a man who owed him a fraction of what he owed to the king; 100 silver coins. When the servant of that servant asked for patience and mercy to pay his debt, he was not merciful and instead sent him to prison until that debt could be paid. The king

heard what happened because the other servants told him, and the king was outraged and had the first servant brought in. The king asked why the servant would treat his fellow servant without mercy after the king cancelled such a huge debt for this first servant. So, the king threw this servant into jail just as was done to the other servant. Jesus finished by saying that this is the same way the Father in heaven will treat everyone unless they forgive one another from the heart.

- b) **Subject**: Why does Jesus tell us to forgive others?
- c) **Complement**: God the Father has forgiven us of our great debt to him.
- d) **Main Idea**: Jesus teaches us to forgive because we would want to be forgiven of all of our own debts to God.

12) **1 Corinthians 8**

- a) **Train of thought**: The Apostle Paul is addressing a matter regarding food sacrificed to idols. He is clarifying a specific matter where a sibling who knows the Lord, but has a weaker conscience does not believe in eating food sacrificed to idols because it is a sin. However, the apostle Paul does mention that this is only for that one individual because eating food or not does not make us closer or further away from God. However, despite this kind of knowledge, the one with the weaker faith/conscience still considers it a sin compared to someone like Paul who does not consider it a sin. Even though someone like Paul or anyone who has a stronger faith does not consider eating foods in any context to be a sin, if someone with stronger conscience or faith eats around the one with a weaker conscience or faith and causes them to stumble/sin because of it, then the one who caused the other to stumble is sinning in God's eyes.

- b) **Subject**: What does Paul say about one believer causing another to stumble?
- c) **Complement**: Causing a believer to stumble is a sin.
- d) **Main Idea**: Believers should be mindful of one another's conscious convictions so that they do not cause one to stumble/sin.