

August Youth Bible Study Synopsis

Topic: "Seek & You Shall Find" (Matthew 25:1-13)
Place: Sheena's residence (Rockland, NY)
Date: Friday, August 19, 2005
Time: 7:00pm

The August Youth Bible study was held on Friday, August 19, 2005, at the residence of Sheena Joseph. The topic chosen for the Bible study was "Seek & You Shall Find" (Matthew 25:1-13). The Bible study started at 7:45pm. Seven youth members from the Hudson Valley church were present along with 11 youth members from the Rockland CSI church as well as Rt. Rev. Dr. A George Ninan. The total attendance was therefore 19 people.

Five songs were sung before starting the Bible study. Bishop George Ninan started the Bible study by stating that the "Four P's method" is not intended to give us a lot of information about the particular passage. Justin Cherian reiterated the steps of the method and they are as follows:

- 1) Point of the Passage- Write down the point of the passage. What does the passage say? Write down whatever strikes you as most important.
- 2) Parallel Passage- Write down any parallel passages that come to mind or anything you felt is related to the story. What other passage came to mind as you read this one?"
- 3) Problems found in the Passage- Identify any problems you see in the passage (a) something you don't understand personally or felt confusing and (b) any possible problems, for others or in communicating to others.
- 4) Personal Applications- What thought appealed to you and what you intend to do about it. What did you learn and is that going to make any difference in your life? How does the passage speak to me?

We began by discussing the first step, "What is the point of the passage?" Jimmy Samuel stated that we should be prepared and ready for the Lord. Benoy Thomas mentioned that Jesus is the bridegroom in this passage and that all 10 virgins expected Jesus to come in due time. Reena Abraham mentioned that the five foolish virgins expected the other five virgins to share their oil. Lenu Mathew mentioned that the delay was purposely intended for in this passage. Ajo Cherian stated that the five virgins with oil were preparing for the coming. Bishop stated that this delay indicates that nobody knows the coming of the Lord but the delay is a key to this passage. Asha John stated this passage shows that we should live a good Christian life before God. Bishop reiterated that we have to live meaningful Christian lives. He also stated that planning and preparation is key and vital. We all need to prepare not just for our Christian lives but for the small things in life. The oil, though it was a small thing was an important part in this passage. There will be certain things that are beyond our control but we must be prepared to live for the Lord's coming. Our life journey is one that we must prepare for.

The second step was identifying any parallel passages. Bishop stated that we must be cautiously preparing for the Lord and walking with Christ. The following were found to be parallel passages.

- 1st Thessalonians 5:2- *"For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."*
- Luke 12:35- *"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning."*
- Luke 12:47 *"And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself..."*
- John 14:1-3 *"Let not your heart be troubled.. In My Father's house are many mansions..."*
- Matthew 24:42: *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."*
- Matthew 24:50: *"the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him ..."*
- James 5:8, 9: *"You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand..."*

The third step in the methodology was identifying any problems with the passage. These are either problems that we came across or problems that others might have with the passage. Sheena Joseph stated that one problem she had was with the confusion with the customs and why there are 10 virgins and lamps. The story that Jesus uses is used to teach us valuable lessons. Also, through our journey we need to prepare. Benoy noted that the word “Lord” means a few things. Bishop commented that it was common to be called “Lord” at that time. Lenu mentioned that the five virgins left the group and why were they shut out from the group? Bishop answered by saying that they will get a chance somewhere else.

The last step was to address any personal applications. Bishop noted that this story is about preparations. We must be prepared and it is essential to walk with God. Reena stated that this passage is about organization and being prepared. Bishop ended by saying that this kind of study can go on without a leader and it can be a personal study where each person reflects on the subject.

We then proceeded to the prayer requests as Justin asked for prayer requests and three people prayed with Bishop saying the concluding prayer and benediction.

The prayer requests were:

- Maya: Pray for a Christopher in Oklahoma as she received an email from him asking for a prayer
- Justin: Pray for Bishop George Ninan & Kochamma and their children
- Jimmy: Pray for Jiju’s family as they are grieving the loss of their son.
- Justin: Pray for both Hudson Valley and Rockland and their activities this year.
- Nisha: Pray for the Mission Trip to Vellore, India
- Reena: Pray for Robin Samuel Serving in Iraq
- Reena: Pray for all those going back to school and colleges
- Ajo: Pray for the upcoming gospel conventions (Seaford and Connecticut)
- Reena: Pray for all the newly weds and soon to be married couples.
- Reena: Pray for the environment

The Bible study ended at 9:25pm and dinner was served by the host family.

For his Glory,

Justin Cherian
Youth Secretary