

Christian Thinking

Chapter 5

Audio Lesson: New Testament #23



Objective: To understand how Jesus' teaching transforms us and to learn how to think like a follower of Jesus.



“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

—Luke 7:47-48

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

—Luke 8:8

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

—Luke 11:9-10

Many of Jesus' parables teach us how to approach and how to respond to His teaching. Jesus used metaphors from common, everyday life that His listeners would understand to show them that His teaching would not fit their expectations or agree with the teachings of the religious leaders of His time. In fact, most of the religious leaders would reject His teaching and oppose His work. With many metaphors and illustrations, like new wine in new wineskins or new material for mending garments, Jesus shows us how to hear and obey His Word. Jesus' teaching is intended to transform our minds, our lives, and our values.



1. True or false? Jesus always praised and respected the religious establishment in His teachings.
2. True or false? Jesus' teaching will often put pressure on us to change the way we think and act.
3. True or false? Jesus refused to compromise His message to please the religious leaders.
4. True or false? Many of Jesus' teachings are not easy for us to hear and obey.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Which of the following pictures did Jesus *not* use to illustrate His teaching?
 - a. Wine
 - b. A manger
 - c. Seed
 - d. A patch for a garment
6. Why were the religious leaders critical of John the Baptist and Jesus?
 - a. Because John and Jesus were not as righteous as the leaders
 - b. Because John and Jesus came from low-status families
 - c. Because John's and Jesus' teachings did not fit well with the teachings of the religious leaders
 - d. Because John and Jesus did not eat the same foods or listen to the same kind of music
7. Why did the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears love Him so much?
 - a. She knew she had been forgiven of much.
 - b. She had spent a lot of time with Him and was one of His best friends.
 - c. She knew that if she showed enough love, she might be saved.
 - d. Jesus had promised to give her great status and many possessions.
8. Why did Jesus side with Mary when her sister, Martha, rebuked her for not helping?
 - a. Mary had already completed her chores on time and did not need to help Martha with hers.
 - b. Mary had chosen the most important thing, which was listening to Jesus.
 - c. He thought Martha was wasting her time because it is not very important to serve others.
 - d. Even though Martha was right, she spoke too harshly to Mary.
9. Which kind of person is more important in God's kingdom?
 - a. Those who are like Mary
 - b. Those who are like Martha
 - c. Neither is more important—both are necessary

10. What did Jesus teach about persistence in prayer?

- a. We should be persistent in our prayers by faith because God will answer.
- b. We can ask several times, but if God has not answered within a week or two, we should assume that He has said no.
- c. We should only pray about something once and then wait for God.



How does God want us to respond when we hear His Word? Have you found it easy to accept His Word as truth? Why or why not? Which of Jesus' teachings challenge you the most?



Thank God for His Word and for the truth it has taught us. Ask God to help you get into His Word and put His Word into your heart, and to help you be both a good hearer and a good doer of His Word.



Going Deeper

1. How should we personally apply the metaphor of Jesus about His teaching being new wine and our minds like wineskins? (Luke 5) _____

2. What is the personal application for you to the contrast between Mary and Martha? (Luke 10)

3. Can you give any examples of how you personally applied the parable of the friend visiting at midnight? (Importunate or repeating the same prayer request.) _____

4. How should you personally apply the parable of the children playing games in the marketplace? (Luke 7) _____

5. What is your personal application of the metaphor of Jesus about the two men who were in debt, one with a large debt and the other with a small one, when both debts were forgiven? (Luke 7) _____

6. Why did Jesus side with Mary when Martha complained that she had to do all of the preparations for the meal when Jesus visited these two sisters? _____

7. What is the primary application of the Mary/Martha examples in the church today as you relate this question to the election of the first deacons in the New Testament Church? (Acts 6)
