

Talk #A

GOD TALKS WITH
US THROUGH
SCRIPTURE

APPOINTMENT II: GOD TALKS TO US THROUGH SCRIPTURE

Objectives:

1. To show that Scripture is God's Word
2. To show that Scripture is essential for our growth and development
3. That God speaking to us is one of four talks in our growth with Christ.

I. Mathew 4:3-11

4:4

- It is written. Christ confirmed the authority of Scripture
- It is equal to what God has said
- We need to respond to life through Scripture
- Scripture is our spiritual food

Questions:

1. Based on Jesus' example, what is an effective method to battle temptation?
2. In verse 4, what phrase does Jesus use to describe Scripture?
3. How is Scripture like bread? Consider how often and how much we need food.

4:6-7

- Discern what is accurate and correct when people quote Scripture like Christ does in this situation.
- Context is always to be obedient to God's Word (that's the gist of Christ's response).
- **To illustrate point, here is a possible example of not respecting the context. Only use if the person is well along, otherwise skip these points and go on to 4:10.**

Questions:

1. A Christian quotes Romans 12:17-19 and concludes that the U.S. should not retaliate against terrorism. Do you agree? Why or why not?
Then point out Romans 13:1-5. This gives clearer instruction about government responsibility.
2. Give another example of taking Scripture out of context. Then use another Scripture correctly to refute this.
3. "Falsehood is never so false as when it is very nearly true."-G.K. Chesterton
Discuss this statement, specifically whether it applies to what cults do.

4:10

- From Scripture we get our focus and priorities of life.

Questions:

1. Look at the nature of the three temptations. How did they progress?

Was each one an invitation to do something obviously *wrong*?

2. Think of and discuss common temptations you face.

II. I Peter 2:2

- Milk means to start with the basics and grow.
- Long for the Word.
- Keep the correct order - start with milk first.

Questions:

1. What is *milk* in Christianity? What are the first things, the most elementary parts, that a new Christian should begin with?
2. What does Scripture indicate is *milk*? See Acts 2:37-47, 16:31-34, Acts 20:32-35, I Cor. 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-2. Compare your list to what you answered in #1.
3. Are you drinking milk or eating solid food? Do you know and/or practice the things listed in #2.

III. I Thessalonians 2:13

- Scripture is God's Word, not the word of men
- Scripture performs its works in us. I Thess. 1:5. It comes in:
 1. Power
 2. the Holy Spirit
 3. in a convincing manner

Questions:

1. Compare liberal arts subjects (education, humanities, literature, history, etc.) to mathematic and science (physics, chemistry, engineering). Is there only one right answer, one absolute correct answer in these subjects? Why or why not?

Does what you think about the answer change the correctness of the answer? What about the Bible? Is there a correct answer? Does the answer change depending on what people think?

2. Consider a radio talk-show, where there is a moderator, and people call in and give their opinions. Often the moderator treats his opinions and all the peoples' opinions as equally valid. Do people today treat the Bible like a radio talk-show? How can you avoid this in your Bible study?

IV. Hebrews 4:12

- God changes us from the inside out.
- Scripture is the food God uses.

Questions:

1. How "sharp" is Scripture? In Hebrews 4:12 what are the things that Scripture can divide?

2. Discuss why the author uses these terms:
 - soul and spirit
 - joints and marrow
 - thoughts and intentions

(This shows us that God uses the Word to change us from the inside out.)

V. John 17:17

- The Word sanctifies (sets apart for special use)
- Scripture is truth

Question:

1. "All truth is God's truth." (Augustine). Discuss what this means. Relate it to what you study in the university as well.

VI II Timothy 3:16-17

- Scripture is God-breathed
- Scripture equips to cause growth

Question:

1. Where does the authority of Scripture come from?

VII. II Peter 1:17-21

- Men were led by God
- Vs. 19 Scripture confirms
- Vs. 17 - Christ was confirmed by the Father (Matt. 17)
- Scripture has priority over experience

Question:

1. Many non-Christians talk about near-death experiences that were positive. How should we view these in light of Scripture?

VIII. Romans 12:2

- Conformed versus transformed

Question:

1. Conformed/transformed. What can conform you? How can you instead be transformed?

IV. Ezra 7:10

- Prepared his heart
- Studied
- Observed
- Taught

Questions:

1. Is the sequence of Ezra's activities important?
2. How effective is a person who teaches before doing?
3. What foundation should a teacher have built before he/she teaches?

X. II Timothy 2:15

- Approved lifestyle
- Study correctly

Questions:

1. Why should we study the Bible if we have Bible teachers?
2. How does one rightly divide the Word of truth?
3. Whose approval should we seek primarily in our work for the Lord?
4. How do we balance agreement with fellow Christians and agreement with God?

SEE ASSIGNMENT ON NEXT PAGE

ASSIGNMENT: Psalm 19:7-11

Notice the different synonyms for Scripture.

Notice its character

Notice its impact or affect