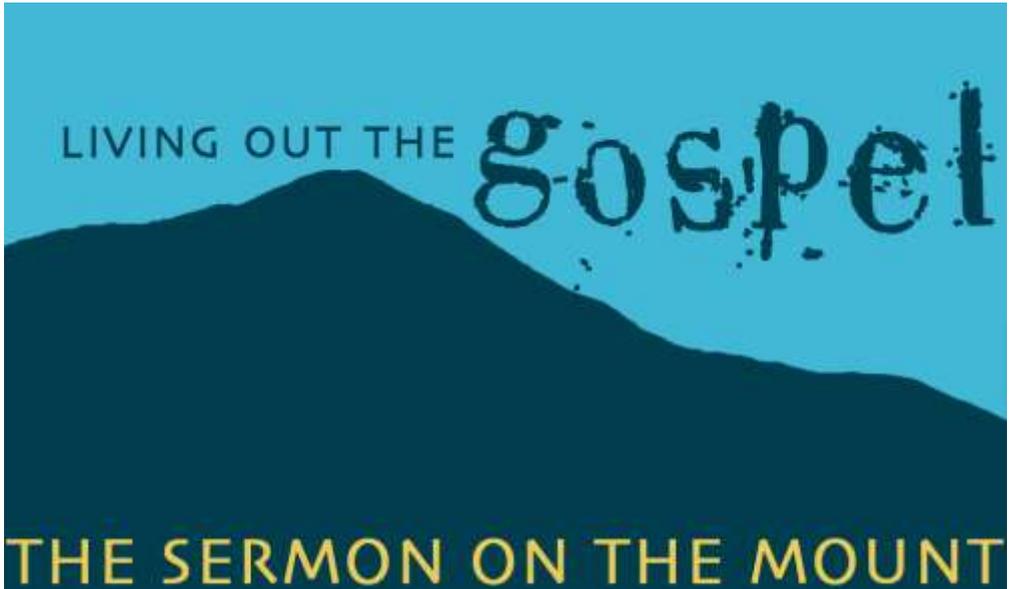


40 Day Bible Reading Plan

Based on Matthew 5 and 6: The Sermon on the Mount

We want to challenge you to commit over Lent not to fast from chocolate or wine. We're challenging you to fast from technology for 4 minutes a day for just 40 days. Instead of answering a WhatsApp, watching a YouTube video or reading a blog, to take 4 minutes to read and reflect of God's word.

Just 4 minutes each day, that's a really doable target for any of us. We'll be providing the substance of your devotions for the next 40 days. It's a section from Matthew where Jesus preaches about the really practical things of life and it will grow you in your faith and obedience to Jesus.



Chapter 5

DAY 1 **Matt 5 Vs 1-2** “Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.”

Jesus is a teacher, that’s why they called him Rabbi and through the work of the Holy Spirit and the testimony of scripture he continues to do that.

- What is Jesus currently teaching you in your life?
- What is making it difficult for you to follow his instruction?
- Where have you learned well and need to be reminded of Jesus’ praise?

Spend a moment in prayer asking God to give you a teachable spirit.

DAY 2 **Matt 5 Vs 3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus is on the side of the poor and in particular those who are poor of spirit, down-hearted, broken and unable to get out of some of their personal struggles. The good news is that the kingdom belongs to people like that: people who have not got it all together and who need Jesus to get it together. Someone once said that Christianity is a crutch for people who cannot get through life on their own, to which a friend responded “I’d rather limp to heaven than leap to hell!”

- Where are you ‘poor in spirit’ and needing Jesus’ help?

Spend some time committing that situation to God in prayer

DAY 3

Matt 5 Vs 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

We’ve all lost someone at some point and grief and mourning are emotions and experiences that every human being can resonate with. Perhaps there are some griefs that are still close to home and for some people there is the realisation that grief might be an impending future reality. Jesus offers us a unique comfort for he is the Lord over all.

- Are there still griefs that you’ve not yet managed to let go of and that are stealing your joy?
- Are there others in your circles that are grieving to whom you might bring Jesus comfort and what would that look like?

Pray to the Lord that in whatever griefs your life may face in the coming years that you’d know the overwhelming comfort he offers.

DAY 4

Matt 5 Vs 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

We live in a world that values power and strength but Jesus sees something else as important. Meek does not mean weak, it rather speaks of restrained power, power that’s under control and not rampant and damaging. This is the kind of King we serve, a king who is gentle yet all powerful, just and yet full of grace and we’re called to imitate him.

- Where are you using your power in ways that is unhelpful to Jesus’ work in your life?
- Where are you feeling overwhelmed by someone else’s power and you need Jesus deliverance?

Jesus loves answering prayers and he cares about the basic gritty stuff of life, so spend some time before him asking for strength that is restrained, a meekness that is honourable to Him and strength to endure.

DAY 5

Matt 5 Vs 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

We all know what it is to be hungry or thirsty, and Jesus indicates here that we can know a hunger for righteousness, which in its simplest form, means right relationship with God. We can want, desperately want - right relationship with God. And his promise? To fill us!

- Do you want, no, desperately want – right relationship with God?

Prayerfully express your hunger and thirst for more of Jesus and then sit quietly and allow Him to fill you.

DAY 6

Matt 5 Vs 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Grace is getting what we don't deserve and mercy is NOT getting what we DO deserve. When people around us behave in such a way that is hurtful or unhelpful, we are invited by Jesus to NOT treat them in the way they deserve.

- Is there anyone that fits that category in your life at the moment? And if so, how could you show them mercy?
- Do you need God to show you mercy in some area?

Pray blessings on the person concerned.

DAY 7

Matt 5 Vs 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

We all struggle to be pure and we live in a world that bombards us with impure things. So how are we ever to see God if we can never get this right? Well, whilst we continue to strive for purity, Jesus offers us his perfect purity. It’s because of what Jesus has done for us that we’re pure, and because of that we’ll see God.

- What areas of your life are struggles with purity?
- Where do you trust your own purity and not Jesus’ perfection?

Spend a minute in prayer confessing your sin and as you do may you hear Jesus’ words “Your sins are forgiven, go and sin no more”

DAY 8

Matt 5 Vs 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

The news often refers to peace-keepers, but Jesus is looking for peace-makers. These are people who get involved in the turmoil, who personally stand in the fray, get in the way and firmly but gently nudge warring parties towards peace. We do so, with the Prince of Peace expressing himself through us.

- Where in your family or circle of influence could you bring the Prince of Peace?

Ask God to show you where peace is needed and then prayerfully ask God how you can get involved?

DAY 9

Matt 5 Vs 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

We are not openly persecuted in SA, but if we live as Jesus invites us to live, we will stand out – and at times experience people being offended by us or opposing us.

- Do you stand out in a crowd as someone who lives differently?
- Is there something that Jesus would ask you to make a shift in, in terms of lifestyle or values?

Ask God to give you the gift of opposition for your faith.

DAY 10

Matt 5 Vs 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Jesus never promised us that we’d have an easy time following him. In fact, here he makes it quite clear that it might become very tough indeed. But in the midst of that we must be filled with joy.

- Why does God not make it easier for us who follow Jesus?
- What is it that he would want us to learn in those dark moments of persecution?

Pray to Jesus that he would help you stand up for your faith in a more public way and that when others would mock you that you’d remain joyful.

DAY 11

Matt 5 Vs 13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”

Salt is so useful, it’s what makes bacon and biltong taste so good! It’s a flavourant and also a preservative. Our role as Jesus followers is to add flavour to the world around us and to preserve the culture from self-destruction by our presence.

- How salty are you at home, work and play how much are you able to bring Jesus’ presence into those spaces?

Pray that the Lord would make you bold for His name’s sake.

DAY 12

Matt 5 Vs 14-16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The Catholics have a prayer called *Review of the Day*. One of the reflection points is “Where today was God at work through me to others? Where did God use me to show his love to others?”

Spend some time reflecting on this and then thanking God for the opportunity to be useful to Him.

DAY 13

Matt 5 Vs 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

It's easy to dismiss some parts of the Bible, especially the Old Testament because some of it seems, well, so old-fashioned. And yet the Bible is an unchanging message to us from God himself.

- Why is God so specific with some of his commands?
- Where are you dismissive of parts of the Bible?

Take a moment and reflect on the importance of the Bible in your life, thank God for it, and ask for the Holy Spirit's help to be obedient to it.

DAY 14

Matt 5 Vs 19 “Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven”

We all tend to pick and choose parts of the Bible that we like or don't like, do or ignore.

- Can you think of a part you are ignoring at the moment, because it's just too uncomfortable or confusing?

Ask God in prayer what he would like you to do with it/about it?

DAY 15

Matt 5 Vs 21-22 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.”

It can be easy to keep an outward image of goodness, but Jesus sees our heart and will judge our attitude as much as our actions because it's the attitudes that define and trigger our actions. If we can tame our wild hearts, our bodies would follow.

- Where are you a hypocrite where you are acting good, but your attitude is under God's judgment?

Pray to God that he'd forgive your sin, thank Jesus that His death means you get life, and ask the Holy Spirit for a renewed mind and a transformed life.

DAY 16

Matt 5 Vs 23-24 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

Relationships really matter to God and it grieves Him when we are disconnected from those around us. It matters so much that he says, “go on, sort this out before you come back to worship on Sunday”

- Is there someone in your life, in PVC who you are disconnected from due to some hurt, words said or neglect?

Consider how you can restore your relationship this week. Pray for them and your relationship now.

DAY 17

Matt 5 Vs 27-30 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.”

We live in a culture that is highly sexualized and it is affecting all of us in some way. Were bombarded by imagery and ideas that go against all that God instructs us. God’s instructions are not a hindrance but a help, they’re there to protect us from our own destructive behaviour.

- In what ways are you struggling with lust?
- What are you going to do about it?

Pray that God would give you the vulnerability to share with someone else your struggle so that they might hold you accountable to live as God called us to live, ask the Holy Spirit for strength to resist temptation and a reminder of Jesus’ grace when you fail.

DAY 18

Matt 5 Vs 33-37 “Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfil to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

The point of this passage is integrity. Jesus observes that since God witnesses every word we say anyway, we should be able to tell the truth without having to call God to witness by a formal oath.

- How truthful are you? (Honestly now!)

Ask Holy Spirit to show you where you have told some 'half-truths' or exaggerated recently, and ask for forgiveness. Ask God to help you be lovingly truthful today.

DAY 19

Matt 5 Vs 38-43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. "

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

There are so many movies that glorify revenge. It feels so good to see a bad person punished for something that they did. However, the Kingdom of God seems to operate on another level entirely. Turn the other cheek, give, sacrifice and bless.

- Where and why are you seeking revenge in this season?
- With whom do you need to go and make right because you've hurt them out of vengeance?

Spend time with the Lord and ask him to help you have Jesus' attitude, one of forgiveness and mercy.

DAY 20

Matt 5 Vs 43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. "

It's so easy to hate people who have hurt you but Jesus' kingdom turns the world's way of looking at things on its head. It's difficult to love people who

are your enemies. They're hurtful, mean and sometimes simply cruel, but Jesus calls us to love them anyway, and that can be extraordinarily difficult to do.

- Who are you struggling to love most at this time?
- What thing could you do in the next few days to practically love them?

Spend some time with Jesus asking him to refresh your spirit and to give you the forgiving attitude he had for those who crucified him.

DAY 21

Matt 5 Vs 45-47 "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? "

How absolutely amazing is that! God doesn't have favourites but, in what can only be called grace, he sends sunshine and rain on everyone, whether they are in his house or not! I guess it's like showing hospitality to people, not my friends, but even those outside our friendship circle.

- Reflect on whether there is someone outside your current circle that God wants you to show kindness or hospitality to?

Spend a moment reflecting on how and then pray for them.

Chapter 6

DAY 22

Matt 6 Vs 1-4 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

It’s easy to be spiritually smug and let pride enter into our lives. We all want to be recognized and appreciated. We all want to impress people with our gifts and devotion. Yet, the Bible is clear that we must seek to impress God alone. This requires a motives check-up.

- On reflection, are you acting in any way smugly in terms of your spiritual practices like giving, bible reading and prayer?

Confess this as sinful and ask God to help you be undercover in your expressions of devotion.

DAY 23

Matt 6 Vs 5-8 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

The one thing that can make us feel guilty more than anything is our prayer life because so often it is not where we know it should be. A simple rhythm for prayer is ACTS:

A: adoration – worshipping God for who He is

C: confession – saying sorry for all we've done wrong

T: thanksgiving – thanks for all that God has done and promises still to do

S: supplication – asking God for our needs and the needs of others

Pray through ACTS today and then try use it as a daily rhythm

DAY 24

Matt 6 Vs 9-15 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

This is a most beautiful prayer that we all tend to pray without real reflection on what it is we are saying to our Father.

Simply take time today to pray each sentence, pausing after each to consider and reflect on what you are in fact saying to God.

DAY 25

Matt 6 Vs 16-18 “When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

This text has little to no meaning unless you are someone who fasts. Whilst Jesus did not instruct us to fast, in the various passages where he refers to fasting, he seems to assume that we will, that we do. Fasting is a Spiritual discipline where we forsake food and use the time to pray and reflect on scripture (Richard Foster's “Celebration of Discipline” is a good read on the matter)

- Ask Holy Spirit to whisper in your heart whether he wants you to fast?

Depending on the answer, consider fasting one meal this week and using the time to talk to Jesus and reflect on scripture.

DAY 26

Matt 6 Vs 19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This may well be the dominant question of the Sermon on the Mount – Who or what has my heart? This is very relevant in the wealthy community in which we ALL live (yes even the retired people and domestic workers are wealthy on a global scale). We invest in what is most important to us. And so two questions today:

- What is most important to me?
- Do I need to ask for forgiveness if anything has become too important in my life, replaced Jesus as number one?

Spend time reflecting and praying on this.

DAY 27

Matt 6 Vs 22-23 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Media is a constant presence, magazines, mobile devices, YouTube and the web. A constant stream of imagery that makes its way into our lives and in time, even our hearts. Not all of it is good and we need to be discerning.

- What are you spending your time looking at that is causing darkness to enter you?

Pray for a wise and discerning heart that you might know what is good and what is unhelpful.

DAY 28

Matt 6 Vs 24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Who is the boss of your life? A simple question with an answer that is not always easy to be honest about. Often our decisions are more pragmatic about money and less spiritual, they're more directed over how to have more and not over what God would have us do.

- How much of a hold does money have over your decision making?
- Is Jesus in charge, or is it the money?

Pray that God would release you from the love of money and that he would give you the ability to yield your life to his rule.

DAY 29

Matt 6 Vs 25-32 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. “

We all worry about some things, but we often worry more than we should and it betrays our struggle to really trust God. Faith is really trust. Faith is trusting that God is good and powerful and that in the end it'll all be ok.

- What are you worrying about over which you have no control?
- Where do you need to hand control back to God and gain the peace he promises?

Pray that you you'd have the ability to rest in Jesus and trust him with all things and that he'd be the answer to all your anxious questions.

DAY 30

Matt 6 Vs 33-34 “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Some experts say worry is the disease of our age. We worry about a lot of things, whether consciously or sub-consciously. These experts say this constant worrying is making us sick, they would say in body and soul, perhaps in Spirit too?

- What are you worried about today?

Talk to God about it and ask the Prince of Peace to fill you.

DAY 31

Matt 7 Vs 1-2 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

In the same way that worry makes us sick, so does judging. When we judge others we really are poisoning our own lives, cutting ourselves off from the free flow of God’s grace and mercy.

- Are you being judgmental towards someone at the moment?

Ask God’s forgiveness, pray blessings on the person and ask for enough of God’s grace in your life, to overflow into this relationship.

DAY 32

Matt 7 Vs 3-5 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

It’s so easy to spot other’s sins, they seem so glaring and yet somehow we miss that we have blind spots. And yet, our sin is a serious thing to God and unless we see it we’ll never see our need of a saviour.

- How good are you at seeing your blind spots?
- What ‘planks’ do you need to deal with in this season of your life?

Pray that God would convict you of your sin and that you’d find it easy to confess. Ask God for the ability to be more blind to the sins of others.

DAY 33

Matt 7 Vs 7 - 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; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

As we become adults we become more and more self-sufficient and yet there is so much only God can provide, but the prevailing culture makes it tough to ask God for things.

- What is stopping you from asking God for things?
- What do you need from God most, right now?

Pray to God and ask him for what it is you seek, like a trusting child would ask a good father.

DAY 34

Matt 7 Vs 9-12 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

It's easy to distrust God because so often people disappoint us and we project that onto God. At other times God may answer differently from what we hoped or he might even say no. But the heart of the gospel is that God is a good father who seeks to bless and not to curse.

- What do you most deeply need from God at this time?

The prayer is simple: ask God for what you need and trust him to respond.

DAY 35

Matt 7 Vs 13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Tough text! Jesus quite clearly is saying most people are walking down a path that is leading to destruction, yes let's say it, to hell. We don't like it, but it's true. And yes, few (ouch) are walking into life.

- Forces us to reflect - which path am I on?
- Which path are my nearest and dearest on? And what role am I meant to play in being a signpost pointing to the way of life?

Prayerfully reflect on these weighty questions

DAY 36

Matt 7 Vs 15-16 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? “

Not everyone who claims to follow Jesus does really do so. There are plenty of pastors who quote the Bible but are in fact false prophets and it can be hard to discern who the real deal is.

- What kind of fruit would a person sent from God have?
- Which of those fruits do you see evident in your life?

Pray for the teaching elders at Protea Valley to be Jesus focused and full of good fruit for God’s kingdom.

DAY 37

Matt 7 Vs 17-20 “Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

In the context of leaders, don’t be impressed by charisma; look for character. Who preachers are - is the main thing, not what they say. A leader whose character is suspect, won’t be able to produce good fruit in others.

Pray again for PVC and its Elders, for Christ’s character to be formed in them.

DAY 38

Matt 7 Vs 21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

It’s easy to say the words “Lord, Lord” but the reality of our humanity is that, that which we really believe will directly affect our behaviour. And one for whom Jesus is Lord will live according to the will of the Father.

- Where are you saying Lord, Lord but really not listening to God’s will for your life?

Pray to God for a listening ear, an obedient heart and a body that is submissive to God’s purpose for your life.

DAY 39

Matt 7 Vs 24-27 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

We have been reflecting as a team on God’s love language – obedience! We are to be doers of the Word, else we build lives that are suspect, shaky and vulnerable.

- As we end our 40 days together tomorrow, what one area of obedience is Jesus asking of/from you?

Pray for the grace and strength of character to obey.

DAY 40

Matt 7 Vs 28-29 “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.”

Jesus is amazing; when we know Him, he creates awe in us for his wisdom, but even more so for his great love of us even though we’re not faithful or dependable. Jesus is good news because he is the ultimate authority to whom we will give answer.

- When did you first find yourself amazed by Jesus and what was it that so deeply captured your attention?

Pray that Jesus would captivate your heart and mind again, that he’d be your first love and that he’d continually amaze you.