



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Matthew 5	Title:	“Whose Right Matters?”
Author	Pastor Larry Lee		
Summary of Chapter	Matthew 5 is part of what is referred to as the “Sermon on the Mount.” While Jesus was addressing the crowd and the disciples, the teaching is primarily for the committed disciples: how would regarding Jesus as King result in our attitudes and daily conduct?		

Key Verse(s) ESV	How does it speak to me?
<i>²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.</i>	<p>The verses remind me that I worship a Holy God. I must not take His holiness lightly. He has given me instructions to help me to become more like Him. But it does not come easy when I struggle to keep my rights when someone did me wrong. If I truly love God, I must give up my rights. If the Holy Spirit reveals my bad excuses, then I better act on it soon. I remember once my spouse said to me, “If you love me, you will do what I say quickly and not delay it.” I think there is wisdom in it because as a loving husband, I desire to please her! I do want to please God too.</p> <p>Once, I struggled to forgive a fellow brother who had done me wrong. One evening, the Holy Spirit prompted me to forgive and reconcile with that brother. I tried to reason with the Holy Spirit but I guess that I lost in that argument. I summoned my courage and went to visit this brother. I told him that forgave what he had done. Well, the sense of relief did not come quickly. But slowly, I realised that God removed my “upset” heart and replaced it with a forgiving heart towards him.</p> <p>I learnt that I must not take Our Holy God for granted. If I want to offer a pleasing and acceptable worship to God, I need to come clean before God. God is interested in both my well-being and worship to Him.</p> <p>If someone has wronged you, I want to encourage you to surrender the situation to God first. Let Him heal your heart today. Then ask the Holy Spirit to give courage to forgive and reconcile with the person in a loving and practical way soon. I believe that God wants to set you free from this pain so that you can worship Him with all of your heart.</p>

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	If God wants you to reconcile with someone even though you are right, would you do it? Why?
Youth:	We worship a Holy God! When was the last time you stood before God and ascribe to Him your highest praise and worship? How did you feel?
Child:	God loves you to worship Him with all your heart, your strength and mind. Share one reason that prevented you from giving your best worship to God? Why does God deserve all our honour and praise? How do you think God likes to be worshipped?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Heavenly Father, thank You for loving us daily. I pray for every person and myself that our response to love You is not by mere words but by our following His instructions. I pray that we will forgive those who have wronged or hurt us today. We surrender that pain and bad memories to You. Heal our hearts and our minds so that we can come freely in your Presence. Lord, give us the courage to love and reconcile with the person in a practical way soon. We thank You and love You!
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.