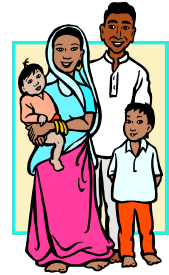


Study Seven



What Is YOUR Response?

Please write your name above and fill in the Bible references in the spaces provided.

Responding To What You Hear

The time has come for you to give your *final* verdict. Is Jesus just another of history’s remarkable men or is He someone more? If He is God’s Son, and Creator of all, you cannot ignore Him.

Jesus said, “What do you think about the Christ?”¹ In this course we have been finding out about Christ. What do *you* think about Him, and how are you going to respond? Jesus wanted people to respond by acting on the things He said. He told them to *use their ears* and not be indifferent, as if deaf.



Hearing and responding

YOU SHOULD RESPOND TO JESUS

There are terrible consequences for those who do not act quickly and “use their ears”. Read Matthew 13:41-43. **Write out verse 43**

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THOSE WHO RESPOND ARE HIS FAMILY

Jesus warned against hearing the word of God but not doing it. He counts those who *do* God’s will as His own family. Read Luke 8:19-21.

Write out verse 21

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The true family of Jesus

Failure To Act Brings Eternal Disaster

Jesus had many eager listeners – but not all of them were prepared to repent and respond to His teaching. They enthusiastically called Him Lord – but failed to do what He said. They respected Him with their lips, but their lives never changed.

THE FOOLISHNESS OF IGNORING JESUS

Jesus told a parable about two houses to explain the folly of not acting on His words. One of these houses was built on earth, and the other on rock. When storms and floods threatened the stability of both houses the one on



The story of two houses!

¹ Matthew 22:42



If I refuse Jesus
I am inviting disaster.

the rock stood firm, but the other collapsed in disaster. Those who respond to Jesus are like the house on the rock. Read Luke 6:46-49.

Write out verse 49

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IF WE ARE NOT SAVED WE SHALL SUFFER

If we refuse to respond to Jesus we are not simply turning down forgiveness, we are inviting eternal ruin – as the parable you have just read plainly describes. You will see from the footnote below² that Jesus spoke very plainly about eternal punishment. The world is heading towards everlasting destruction.³ We must be careful not to go the same way, or we will suffer the consequences that our sins so richly deserve. **Look up Acts 2:40**

Eternal
punishment

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Dove & Fire:
two symbols
of God's Spirit

Our Response and God's Promised Help

Those who first heard the Gospel wanted to respond, but they did not know how to go about it. So they asked an important question – “Men and brethren what should we *do*?” Peter told them to repent and be baptised. You should respond in a similar way, by turning from the things that displease God, and showing your faith in Christ by baptism.

Those who repent and believe are promised a very special Helper.

They are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit of God.⁴

JESUS HAD PROMISED THE HOLY SPIRIT

Shortly before He died, Jesus promised His disciples that another Person would come to help them. That Person is the Holy Spirit. From the moment you know Christ as your Saviour, this Helper comes to live with you.

Look up John 14:16

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The holiest
of guests!

² Luke 16:19-31.

³ Matthew 7:13.

⁴ Acts 2:38 (You wrote this out in Study 6).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A CHRISTIAN'S TEACHER AND GUIDE

God's Spirit is a wonderful provision for every Christian. The Christian life is not easy, but with the Holy Spirit to teach and assist us we have all the strength we need, and we are never alone. **Look up John 14:26**

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An ever present Helper

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO PRAY

One of the first signs that we are true Christians is the ability to pray. God's Spirit encourages us to address God as our Father, now that we are reconciled to Him through Christ's death. **Look up Galatians 4:6**

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Joining and Growing

So how did those early believers in Christ respond to the Gospel? They responded by being baptised and joining the church. About 3,000 "were added" in one day! It was only natural that they should join, as they now belonged to the same family – the family of God. They were soon to gain strength from the warm friendship of other believers.



God's own family

THEY JOINED THE CHURCH FAMILY

If you have come to faith in Christ, you should join a church that faithfully teaches the Gospel of Christ. You should join God's family, and regularly attend, just as they did. **Look up Acts 2:41**

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Fellowship

THEY GREW WITHIN THE FAMILY

In your family you eat regular meals to remain healthy and strong. Every new believer needs the milk of God's Word to *grow*. **Look up 1 Peter 2:2**

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Peter and the other apostles instructed these early Christians in God's Word. The New Testament contains the writings of these men. You should read them daily and hear them explained to you. By doing this you will receive the food you need to grow into a strong Christian.



Food to grow



“Breaking of Bread”

THEY ATE A MEMORIAL MEAL

Early Christians took bread and wine in a memorial supper. They called it “Breaking Bread” because Jesus had taken a loaf and broken it, just like His body would be broken. The wine was a symbol of the shedding of His blood when He died for them. Jesus had told them to eat the bread and drink the wine to remember His dying love on the cross.⁵ Christians should often think about the love of Jesus by sharing in this simple meal with other believers. **Look up Acts 2:42**

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Notice how they prayed together. Praying with other Christians is a source of spiritual strength. If you are a true believer in Christ be sure to pray often, whether at home or in the church. God is now yours to enjoy. He cares for you like a father, so tell Him about your needs but remember to thank Him too. **Look up Philippians 4:6**

God’s fatherly care

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.....

and FINALLY

Ashamed of Jesus?

If you now consider yourself a true Christian you must not be ashamed of Jesus.⁶ He was not ashamed of you when He stood before the Roman governor (Pontius Pilate)⁷ and went to the cross for you.

So be prepared to speak of Jesus to others. God will honour it, and your spiritual life will be enriched.

Now that you have completed the course you may wish to take the next course in this series called “Starting Out As A Christian” which is in English. The course can be downloaded from the internet at www.biblehelp.co.uk by someone who has access to a computer. Speak to your course leader about it.

⁵ Luke 22:19-20

⁶ Mark 8:38.

⁷ 1 Timothy 6:12-13.