

My comments are in Lucida Sans Unicode 12 pt. The comments in blue are those of a reporter from the IHOP study session from which I was absent during a brief vacation. I want to add that the opportunity for dialogue is much more interesting to me than just my summarizing what I hear said. We need to do this more often. Thanks. Pastor Bill

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH July 20, 2004

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Matthew 28: 16 to 20 “Commencement Exercises”

The Gospel of Matthew's message is powerful and relevant to our current human situation. Matthew's purpose is to give us a training manual for teaching the Deeply Satisfied Life. This material is developed for the early church, but is applicable for us today.

Matthew's teaching role model is Jesus. The "Deeply Satisfied Life" is the experience ("Gut Trip Analysis") of the term Sanctification (which is an Old Christian Code Word understood through "Head Trip Analysis").

This is our twenty-eighth (and last) lesson in this series. This lesson remains under the general banner associated with "A Training Manual For Teaching the Transparent Sanctified Life. However, this is the eighth arena on "The Next Step."

I. Read the assigned reading at one time.

II. (Note: This is a review of Matthew's chart.)

These four verses in Matthew 28: 16 to 20 bring to an end the gospel of Matthew. However, Matthew's treatment of them is not a graduation from something, rather it is a commencement address, or our commissioning as Teachers of the Transparent Sanctified Life.

Recall that Matthew gives the early church "A Training Manual For Teaching the Transparent Sanctified Life." The Transparent Life is the life experience that fulfills our intended human purpose in humane ways. The Sanctified Life is a life experienced as "*deep satisfaction*." To this end, the training manual begins by "Training The Teacher" through the stories of "The Birth of the Teacher," and then the "Training of a Teacher."

The second section of the training manual provides the "Tools For Teaching The Methods For a Happy/Holy Life." (Sanctification.) This is the largest section of scripture in our study of Matthew that we named "The Teacher's Handbook –Part I: Transparent Ethics." This includes much of Jesus' ethical teachings.

The third section of this training manual is a short section on "Moral Imperatives" supported by the topic of "Foundations for morality."

The fourth section covers "Life in the Spiritual Oasis." This topic is supported as Part II of the teacher's handbook. You'll recognize the Spiritual Oasis in Jesus' teachings on The Kingdom of Heaven." This is followed "The Teacher's

Handbook—Part III on “Moral Lessons.” We addressed this part in three studies covering our studies on the cost and the glory of teaching, the authority of the teacher, and the inbreaking of the Spiritual Oasis.

The fifth section concerns “The Teacher’s Reward.” This material examines “The Transparent Experience,” and this current study sheet on “The Next Step.”

III. Reflect on the following:

1. **28: 18—“All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me.”**
 - a. **Take the words “heaven” and “earth” and reflect on what these words point to in our human experience.**

Heaven and earth is bigger than us. The eternal—the Spiritual Oasis--is always. The start of eternity is now. Earth is related to The Way Life Is (TWLII). This answer reveals that the use of our experiential terminology comes readily to our minds as the IHOP Bible Study participants. Fantastic. Now, this is nit-picking but the verb “is” in the opening sentence needs to imply “meaning;” i.e., “Heaven and earth means bigger than us.” (Shades of Bill Clinton.) However, this is not to lose sight of the fact that both the Spiritual Oasis (heaven) and the TWLI (earth) are both simultaneous experiences.

- b. **Describe the significance of our relationship to Jesus as The Christ, and how do we stand in the reflected authority of Jesus. Think: Awakened People.**

If truly awakened people then we have duty to teach or share with others to help awaken them to Jesus. Oh, I agree, but tell me why. My reasoning is that our created purpose, and the purpose of the Creator, is for all of us to live in At-One-Ment. This can’t be done until everyone is Awakened! Consequently, those who are awake have the duty to awaken those in spiritual sleep. Coincidentally, the Jews believe that when everyone obeys the 10 Commanments at the same time, this ushers in the Messianic Age. I believe we are saying something very similar is speaking about the Awakening all of humanity—this ushers in the Day of the Lord, or as we called it The Spiritual Oasis.

2. 28:19 – 20a---“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

What is the “Gut Trip Analysis” of these underlined words: Father, Son, Holy Spirit? Three forms or modes of existence. Almighty Creator, maker of heaven and earth. The Son, Jesus, the one true incarnation of God, who came to earth to save us from our sins and shows us the way to salvation. The Holy Spirit who lives in the hearts of the believers and gives new life. Um-m-m, where to begin. All this is pretty Head-Trippy. While it is true, it also is just fuzzy. Let’s see if we can turn this into Gut-Trip Analysis.

To begin, recall the activity is related to baptism—cleansing of our human separation and restoring us to live as victors. We are to do this activity in the name of The Trinity: an Intimate Relationship with Perfect At-One-Ment (God, the Father), The Little Picture (Jesus) who embodies the Sacrificial Spirit (Christ), and of our Freedom of Choice (Holy Spirit, or our Surrender—or Sanctified-- Breath).

Reflect on, and share your insights into the statement, “. . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

A disciple who does not obey is not a true disciple. We must share with other what has been shared with us. The place I want to push is on the “why” this is true. One troubling word in this scripture is the word “obey.” It is true we are to obey, but those who are Awake obey because we choose to obey rather than feel compelled to obey. The reason the Awakened chose to obey is that humans are more humane when we do.

What we obey is the 10 Commandments. This are our guidelines not because the Commandments SAVE US, rather because we ARE SAVED we obey them to make us more fully human.

2. 28: 20b--- And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

What is your experience of these words, and how do they inform the significance for our ministry as The Awakened? See John 14: 18 – 20,

“Because I live, you also will live. . . I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

Reflect on the significance of these words in light of transparency.

If we live our lives as Christians then people may see Jesus reflected through us. I believe it. However, if I was walking down the street and I looked through somebody to see “Jesus” in them, what would I be seeing? My answer is I would see them as the authentic human/humane beings they already are. We see Jesus in everyone all of the time! They may not know it, and they may not call it that. However, they are “Jesus” just as they are as authentically human as they will ever get.

Our difficulty here is that all creation—rocks, trees, cows, etc.—exude its essential creation; immediately we know what an object it because it transmits its intended creation to us. Now, when it comes to human creation we get stuck because of SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS. What a shame. We are just what we are! This is what the Awakened know about themselves and what we know about every other human on the face of the earth. When we KNOW this, then we are transparent to the Spiritual Oasis, and/or to the Jesus who lives in us.

Interesting isn’t. I love it, and I love you.

- a. Reflect on the significance of these words in light of the Spiritual Oasis?

His light is reflected through us. Yes, exactly. Moving on from the statement immediately above, the Spiritual Oasis is the fully human/humane person we see. On, in another way of saying it, we see Jesus who is The Little Picture of Perfect At-One-Ment.

- b. What is the experiential lesson learned in this exercise?

Jesus is not only with us; He is also in us. His Holy Spirit gives us the power to be His disciples, to be His witnesses. If Jesus is in us, His authority is also in us. All true, although I’d prefer to use experiential language to explain it. Jesus (Authentic Humanness) is

not only with us, Authentic Humanness is in us. His Power To Live Authentically (The Holy Spirit) gives us the power to be The Awakened Ones (His disciples); to be His witness to living the humane life. When we accept the Authentic Humanness already exists within us, Jesus' authority is also in us because we also are Authentically Human, in particular as we are humane.

All right gang, talk to me.