

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
IHOP BIBLE STUDY
Topic: Matthew 6: 25 to 7: 29 "Watch your priorities"**

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 as "Head Trip Analysis").

This is our eighth lesson in this series, and is associated with "Tools For Teaching The Methods For A Happy/Holy Life." My reflections on the gospel give us the overall title of "The Training Manual For Teaching The Transparent Sanctified Life." With this metaphor established, let us continue. .

I. Read the assigned reading at one time.

- II. First, it is helpful to note that Jesus is an experiential teacher; that is, he teaches by using our human experience. Here is a partial list from our assigned reading: giving children bread or rocks, fish or snakes; doing to others as you want them to do to you.

Second, Jesus teaches by using metaphors or similes, such as: lilies of the valley, birds of the air, wide and narrow gate, the tree is known by its fruit, wise and foolish builders.

- III. **OUR PRIORITIES---** A summary of the scriptures in this assignment is the following:

When our **Operating Context is At-One-Ment**, then our priorities become 1) **avoiding** those actions and relationships that are **the antithesis of At-One-Ment**, and 2) **embracing** those relationships and experience that result in **At-One-Ment**.

Our Operating Context: Watch out for the Old Christian Code Words. You may need to write out your experience of these old words before you can work to directly answer the question.

Examine the following scriptures and summarize how you experience them as "the context" for setting our Christian priorities

1. 6: 33 – Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness

2. 6: 30 -- will he not much more clothe you

3. 7: 11 -- will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him

4. 7: 21b -- only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven

II. Next, examine the following scriptures and summarize how you experience them as "the priorities" for ordering our work as "Gut-Trip Christians." –

1. The priority of avoiding actions and relationships that led to the antithesis of At-One-Ment:

a. 7: 1 -- Do not judge

b. 7: 13a -- wide gate that leads to destruction

c. False prophets [who bear bad fruit]

1. The priority of embracing actions and relationship that lead to At-One-Ment:

a. 7: 12 -- do to others what you would have them do to you

b. 7: 11 -- giving good gifts

V. What did you learn about the "teaching tool?"