

## **Learn From Me** **By Jamey Hinds**

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest. Place my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest for your souls, because my yoke is pleasant, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30). Jesus did not say to learn about him, but to learn from him. The difference is personal, and the difference may well be eternal. It’s not that there’s nothing to learn about Jesus, but the more effective way to learn is from him - benefiting us and those in our circles of influence at home, work, and all around us. “Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently search for him” (Heb. 11:6).

The point is that Jesus is seeking a relationship with each one of us as members of a family. (2Cor. 6:16-18; Heb. 2:10-18). Learning about Jesus may be what we do initially, but as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior (2Peter 3:18) we learn from him: This is, in fact, what you were called to do, because: The Christ also suffered for you and left an example for you to follow in his steps. “He never sinned, and he never told a lie.” When he was insulted, he did not retaliate. When he suffered, he did not threaten. It was his habit to commit the matter to the one who judges fairly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the tree, so that we might die to those sins and live righteously. “By his wounds you have been healed.” You were “like sheep that kept going astray,” but now you have returned to the shepherd and overseer of your souls (1Peter 2:21-25).

God’s thoughts and ways are higher than our thoughts and ways (Isa. 55:8-9). The more time we put into reading and thinking about God’s thoughts and ways, we will learn from him and become more like him; truly like him. This means we will serve others: (Mark 10:43-45; Matt. 5:43-48). “The person who says, ‘I have come to know him,’ but does not continually keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth has no place in that person. But whoever continually keeps his commandments is the kind of person in whom God’s love has truly been perfected. This is how we can be sure that we are in union with God: The one who says that he abides in him must live the same way he himself lived” (1John 2:4-6). The difference between heaven and hell is the difference between hearing and doing, and just hearing (Matt. 7:24, 26; Luke 8:12). Learning from Jesus’ humility: “... not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42; Phil. 2:5-11). This will change everything for us in our relationship with God the Father (Isa. 57:15; 66:2).

### **Use It Or Lose It**

“Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Mark 4:24-25).

The expression, "Use it or lose it" is often heard in regard to physical exercise. Muscles must be used in order to insure their greater use in the future. To fail to use one's muscles will lead to the loss of strength one presently has. The same is true concerning spiritual things. Regarding hearing and understanding God's word, the Lord warns, more or less, "Use it or lose it." Matthew's account says, “For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Matt. 13:12).

### **True Worship Starts With Me** **By Dee Bowman**

I will take home something if I bring something.  
I will get something out of it if I give something to it.  
I will be edified by others if I seek to edify them.  
I will be encouraged if I am first an encourager.  
I will be uplifted if I lift up others.  
The Lord will be closer to me if I draw closer to Him.  
Worship, even in public, is a private affair. It starts with me.

### **Are You A Workaholic? By David Maxson**

“The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure, even to eat” (Mark 6:30-31) Are you a workaholic? Think about these questions:

- Does maintaining a frantic schedule make you feel important?
- Do people often tell you that you're working too much (and do you take that as a complement)?
- Do you find it difficult to say "no" to requests?
- Is it difficult for you to rest and unwind?
- Have you ever talked on the cell phone while playing with the kids?
- When was the last time you went a full day without answering a text or an email?
- After killing yourself over a 60+ hour work week do you still feel guilty about not doing enough?
- Do you resent the fact that your spouse and children complain about you not being around?
- But the critical question is this: Are you working for them or for the Lord?

How do you overcome this addiction? You can't do it on your own. You have to come to the cross. You have to find your self-worth in God's love for you, not in your productivity at work. So listen to me all you workaholics out there... I'm giving you permission to slow down. Leave some of that work for later. Go home early and just enjoy time with your family. Leave the laundry for tomorrow and take a few extra moments today to meditate or pray.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- What a sight it would be – Christians bearing their cross, instead of simply singing about it.
- It has been said that crosses are fashioned of two pieces; the one, the will of God; the other, my own will. Place these two wills side by side and there is no cross, but only pleasure. It is only when God's will is laid across my will that there is pain and sorrow.
- There is no such thing as living without a cross. We are free only to choose between crosses ... In seeking to live without the cross, we got a cross – not one of Christ's making or our own, but the devil's.
- Many people who plan to be saved from their sins the eleventh hour, die at 10:45.
- Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. We do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face His task and to take up His Cross.
- We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible absence of love, and He saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible greatness of love.
- Christ is sufficient. We do not need "support groups" for each and every separate tribulation. The most widely divergent sorrows may all be taken to the foot of the same old rugged cross and find there cleansing, peace, and joy.