

# ***Basic Discipleship***

## ***A Course On New Testament Discipleship***

### ***Topic #8***

134. While the Bible does not give a complete, detailed description of all that believers will do with their rewards — these passages convey the idea — that rewards are ultimately gifts of grace and will be used to glorify and to honor \_\_\_\_.
135. James 4:14 reminds us that this life is like “a vapor” that appears for a moment and is gone, and when we die we will take nothing with \_\_\_ (cf. Job 1:21; 1 Timothy 6:7).
136. In fact, some day this entire universe will be destroyed with fire—all that we \_\_\_\_ is temporal—and so it is essential that we live our life—with our eye on eternity.

**10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat (2 Peter 3:11-12)!**

137. The Apostle Paul also encourages us to \_\_\_\_ with an eternal outlook when he states:

**18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Cor. 4:18).**

138. “**The things which are seen**” refer to the material world—our possessions, struggles, physical pain & temporary accomplishments—while “**the things which are unseen.**” refer to such things as God’s presence, salvation, heaven and our eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

**19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19–21).**

139. The Lord Jesus speaks here of “**treasures**” that “**moths**” cannot eat, that “**rust**” cannot corrode — and that “**thieves**” cannot steal — because He is advising us to have an eternal — “**safety deposit box**” — in \_\_\_\_\_.
140. If you really want to know how wealthy you really are—then just add up everything that you have—that money cannot buy & that death cannot take way — and then you will know — just how wealthy you \_\_\_\_\_.
141. We have learned all the way through Section 8, that to lay up “**treasures in heaven**” is to do anything on “**earth**” — whose effect lasts for eternity — after we have \_\_\_\_\_.
142. Over the decades—I have met some Christians who came to a saving faith in Christ late in life—and when they hear of the Scriptures teachings on eternal rewards they sometimes regret that they did not have more \_\_\_\_\_ in life to lay up eternal treasure.

143. Some are blessed to have been raised in a Bible-believing home and at a young \_\_\_ they received Christ as their Savior—while others did not hear of God’s salvation until later in life—just know God considers the circumstances of our conversion.

144. If anything, those who met Christ at a young age and who had at their disposal the blessings of a healthy church—will give a stricter accounting because Jesus \_\_\_\_\_:

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more” (Luke 12:48).

145. This principle applies—not simply to the lost in God’s righteous expression of \_\_\_\_\_, but also to the saved in God’s righteous expression in rewarding believers for service.

146. We find this \_\_\_\_\_ taught in *The Parable of the Workers* found in Matthew 20:1-16:

1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 “When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 “And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; 4 and to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And so they went. 5 “Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. 6 “And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’ 7 “They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.’ 9 “When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. 10 “When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 11 “When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, 12 saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.’ 13 “But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 ‘Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. 15 ‘Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’ 16 “So the last shall be first, and the first last.”

147. This is another “kingdom of heaven” parable where Christ illustrates the \_\_\_\_\_ of this life in relation to the coming future “kingdom” that He has for His people.

148. The context of Jesus’ teaching is linked to the prior paragraph by the word “for” which sets the stage for Jesus telling this parable—this is a good example where we do not want *the helpful but artificial chapter breaks* distract us from the \_\_\_\_\_.

149. Remember, that the occasion for this parable—comes out of a discussion on \_\_\_\_\_ based on Peter’s statement found in Matthew 19:27 where he says to Jesus, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?”

150. Peter drew a comparison between himself and the other Apostles—who unlike the rich ruler who was willing to leave nothing (19:16-26)—they had \_\_\_\_ everything.

**“Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?”**

151. The statement Peter makes implies that their reward in heaven should be large or maybe even the largest—because their sacrificial following preceded \_\_\_\_ others.

**28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life (Matthew 19:27–29).**

152. We have already studied how God distinguishes—between the present possession of **eternal life** as a gift (John 5:24; 6:47; 10:28;), with the future fullness of **eternal life**, which believers experience in its ultimate expression in Jesus’ kingdom & \_\_\_\_\_.

153. So after Jesus answers Peter’s question, He concludes by saying **“But many who are first will be last, and the last first”** (19:30) & then He illustrates with this \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.**

154. In Bible times, a daily workday for the farmer in Israel was divided roughly into twelve hours, beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset, for when people \_\_\_\_\_.

155. At different times of the day **“early in the morning”** (6am) **“the third hour”** (9am), **“the sixth hour”** (noon), **“the ninth hour”** (3pm) and finally at **“the eleventh hour”** (one hour before sunset) the **“landowner”** hired various workers for \_\_\_\_ vineyard.

156. With the 1st group **“he had agreed”** to pay them **“a denarius”** (20:2), which was the average pay for a full day’s work, while the others who were hired at various \_\_\_\_\_ of the day— he promised — **“whatever is right I will give you”** (20:4, 20:5, 20:7).

157. To make His point in the parable — Jesus had them paid at the end of the day in the reverse order in which He hired them — beginning with those he hired at 5PM who worked only one hour & ending with those He hired **“early”** & had worked all \_\_\_\_.

158. At the end of the day—he pays all the workers the same amount regardless of how long they worked—which caused those who worked all day to **“grumble”** thinking it is unfair that they receive the same **“denarius”** as the one who worked \_\_\_\_ hour.

159. However, “**the owner of the vineyard**” (20:8) paid them the “**denarius**” they agreed upon (25:13)—underscoring that this “**landowner**” has been fair—and that he has the right to do what he wishes — emphasizing his generosity — if he so \_\_\_\_\_.
160. While God gifts His people equally with eternal life—in light of Matthew 19:29, He also gives rewards on top of eternal life as He sees fit and not as we might \_\_\_\_\_.
161. Of course, the ‘**landowner**’ represents Jesus and the ‘**vineyard**’ His ‘**kingdom**’ and ‘**the laborers**’ believers called to serve and the ‘**wages**’ the rewards He will give \_\_\_\_.
162. God operates on the basis of grace, and so he paid the late workers, not on the basis of what they had earned — but rather on the \_\_\_\_\_ of his kindness & generosity.
163. Some believers start their work “**early in the morning**” or early in life or in the case of the disciples early in His ministry, while others start their service in “**the eleventh hour**” of life or late in life—but they can potentially be equally—rewarded by \_\_\_\_.
164. The point of Jesus’ parable is that the Twelve—thought that due to their priority \_\_\_\_ following Jesus early on in His ministry & in leaving everything to do so — that due to their time, sacrifice & amount of labor that they should receive a greater reward.
165. Jesus having just assured Peter and the disciples — that they will be rewarded, He also underscores the principle that “**the last shall be first, and the first last**” (Matthew 20:16) to remind us that God may not reward as \_\_\_\_ might expect.
166. This parable concerns God’s grace & rewards, teaching us that while we may \_\_\_\_ that those who have labored *the longest* should receive *the greatest* reward.
167. The truth is that some, through no fault of their own are not ‘**hired**’ until a late \_\_\_\_\_ in life—so just know — that God’s ways — are not like — ours ways (Isaiah 55:8).

**7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:7–9).**

168. Yet, God deals with His own people in His “**grace**” — from the day we are saved (Ephesians 2:8-9) until the day we meet Jesus in Heaven—where He will reward us not according to who we are—but he will reward us according to who He \_\_\_\_.
169. This parable *challenges our expectations* about rewards in ‘**the kingdom**’ because all true believers, no matter whether they are converted early or late in life, receive the same eternal life and are rewarded \_\_\_\_ according to merit but by God’s generosity.

170. Jesus had just said that “**many who are first will be last, and the last, first** (19:30), but now for emphasis He reverses the statement saying “**the last will be first, and the first last**” to warn against—assuming superiority—based on perceived \_\_\_\_\_.

171. The rewards that Christ will give at “**the judgment seat of Christ**” (2 Cor. 5:10), will be decided—not according to our way of thinking—where we might reason that people who are “**first**” in our sight ought to be “**first**” in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**16 “So the last shall be first, and the first last” (Matthew 20:16).**

172. There is coming a future day of accountability for those who have been saved \_\_\_\_\_ grace, “**For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**” (Romans 14:10).

173. It would be wonderful if—when we came to the end of life—we could say like \_\_\_\_\_:

**7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;  
8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord,  
the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also  
to all who have loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:7–8).**

174. One of the overriding truths we have learned in this lesson is that to make our lives count for Jesus—it begins by being faithful in the \_\_\_\_\_ things (Matt. 25:21-23).

175. All big things are made of little things & the big things in life are made of little \_\_\_\_\_, little words, little thoughts & our little day by day decisions to serve the Lord Jesus.

176. We cannot “**finish the course**” that God has set for us (Ephesians 2:10) unless we are faithful in the little things of life each & every day—because the small things, and the secret things—comprise who we are and what—we \_\_\_\_\_ become.

**10 “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much ( Luke 16:10).**

177. We have seen throughout this section that living with eternity in view—is the wisest way to live — because it is only as we develop an eternal perspective — that we are guarded from chasing empty dreams & wasting our lives pursuing temporal \_\_\_\_\_.

178. In the end, when God evaluates our lives as believers in heaven, the basis of \_\_\_\_\_ evaluation will be faithfulness because, as the Apostle Paul taught and modeled, “**it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful**” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

179. When we consider this truth, it should motivate us to live with our eyes on \_\_\_\_\_.

180. Certainly, there is the reward that comes in this life from serving Christ and His people as it brings great joy, honor to God’s name, and satisfaction in this \_\_\_\_\_.

181. But someday in the future, we will have the great privilege of placing our rewards at the Savior's feet in gratitude for all that He has \_\_\_\_\_ for us (Revelation 4:10).
182. We will have the reward of meeting people whom we have impacted for Christ, and even those people whom \_\_\_\_\_ in turn impacted (2 Tim. 2:2; 2 Pet. 1:11).
183. When we think of living for eternity, we must remember that most of the activity of the saved is comprised of everyday, routine activity year after year after \_\_\_\_\_.
184. Yet, God takes note of the smallest things \_\_\_\_\_ for His people and His work and Jesus promises that no one will "lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42 cf. Heb. 6:10).
185. Faithfulness is a basic, fundamental ingredient of character—because faithfulness is God's requirement for our stewardship & how God rewards us for our \_\_\_\_\_.
186. One day, we're going to stand before Christ as His "judgment seat" (2 Cor. 5:10), and the reward — or the lack of reward — will be according to \_\_\_\_\_ faithfulness.
187. In fact, even when the Apostle Paul summarized the believer's life & conduct he did so by relating it—to the everyday, ordinary, activities of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 10:31):

**31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

188. We can only 'see in a mirror dimly' but someday 'clearly' with perhaps the greatest reward for God to \_\_\_\_\_ to us, "Well done thy good and faithful slave" (Mt. 25:21).
189. It is essential that we recognize how short this life really is and that we consider those acts of service that are of eternal value that we might invest our lives \_\_\_\_\_.
190. In the end, only God (1 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 9:6), His Word (Isaiah 40:8), angels (Luke 20:36), and people (Matthew 28:46; Mark 8:38) will last \_\_\_\_\_.
191. So \_\_\_\_\_ yourself, "Based on the value system established in God's Word, am I serving the Lord Jesus — and am I — investing in people?"

*Scripture Memory Verse: Matthew 6:19-21*

**19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19–21).**

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