

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers - Part 4

Michael R. Daily, December 2011

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The following are questions submitted anonymously by a group of about 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church and AWANA club. They were asked to submit at least one question per person.

How can I explain Hell to a non-christian without being offensive?

You can't. The reason some people are offended by the idea of Hell is because they don't really think they are sinners – they think that they are not that bad. If they don't believe they are sinners or that sin isn't really that serious then they won't understand the need for someone to save them from the penalty of their sin and they won't understand why the punishment for sin is so severe. The Bible says in **I Corinthians 1:18** that it will all seem like foolishness to them. In addition **II Corinthians 4** says that Satan has the power to spiritually blind people so that they can't see the truth. Also, in **II Corinthians 2** it says that when we share God's truth with others we give off a spiritual fragrance – to those who are being saved it is the pleasant fragrance of life but to those who are perishing that same fragrance smells like the stench of death. When I was a freshman in college (as a nonchristian) one of the guys on my dorm floor was talking to me as we were washing our hands in the restroom. He invited me to a Bible study in his room later in the week and, although I didn't actually smell anything, I knew I had to attend – it was the fragrance of life. A few months later I became a Christian. But if I was someone who was not being saved I would have reacted to him as if I had smelled a decomposing body. That reaction would look very similar to someone being offended. So, God does not give you the responsibility for how people react to you when you talk about His truth. He will take care of that. **II Timothy 4** says that your job is to be faithful in telling people regardless of how popular or unpopular the message is.

(Romans 5:8-10, I Corinthians 1:18-25, II Corinthians 2:14-16, II Corinthians 4:3-5, II Corinthians 5:18-20, II Timothy 1:8-9, II Timothy 4:1-5)

My dad says I (a boy) need a haircut – didn't Jesus have long hair?

No. I don't know of any evidence in the Bible showing that Jesus had long hair. In fact, just the opposite! **I Corinthians 11** says that long hair is a dishonor to a man. This is a doctrinal passage that applies to all men at all times in history in all cultures and countries. Therefore, Jesus would have had short hair. The idea that Jesus had long hair does not come from the Bible, it comes from paintings that you have seen. These painting have been carried down and copied by tradition from the first paintings of Jesus done during the Renaissance period. These paintings were ordered and paid for by the kings of Europe during that time period. Guess what the prevailing hairstyle of the kings of Europe was at that time – dishonoring long hair! The kings who paid to have the paintings of Jesus done wanted Him to have the same hairstyle they had. So, there is no evidence that Jesus had long hair. But we do know that the Bible teaches that long hair is a dishonor to a man, so Jesus had short hair – and so should you. **(I Corinthians 11:14-15)**

Why do "cool kids" always exclude "uncool kids"?

One word – POWER! The dictionary defines power as "possession of control, authority, or influence over others". In this case the form of power is about having influence or control over others. There are many people who have a strong desire to acquire power over other people. You will see this throughout your adult life. People acquire power over others in the context of a common value system. One of Satan's deceptions is that he has set up a different world value system for teenagers and adults. The value systems of teenagers and adults are almost opposite of each other. See below:

What this means is that power in the adult world is often centered around money, promotions, and having a position of authority. But in the teen world power is often centered around ideas of what is attractive, who has had what experiences, social events, and sports. Being "cool" is typically associated with those who are above average in physical attractiveness and dress and who have had an unusually broad variety of life experiences or who excel at social interactions or sports. What is interesting is that after you graduate from high school the value of these same things drops significantly. After graduation don't be surprised if you see the captain of the high school football team collecting shopping carts in front of Walmart. Don't be surprised at your

Teenagers	Adult
Attractiveness	Family
Experience	Work
Social Life	School
Sports	Sports
School	Social Life
Work	Experience
Family	Attractiveness

20 year high school reunion if all the quiet kids that followed the rules have become bosses and the popular kids haven't done so well and are still struggling to find the popularity that was so easy for them in high school. Until then just be aware that Satan has set up a false value system and the "cool" kids are being used by him to manipulate people. The good news is that you don't have to participate. You can focus on seeking God's approval instead of their approval (**John 12, Matthew 20**). Instead of being afraid of their rejection realize that their approval of you is meaningless (**Proverbs 29, Isaiah 40**) and don't react to it (**Ecclesiastes 10**) because you know that their power will soon be ending (**Luke 1**).

(John 12:42-43, Matthew 20:25-28, Prov 29:25-27, Isaiah 40:23, Ecclesiastes 10:4, Luke 1:49-52, 1 Corinthians 1)

I've heard that the Tribulation will come before the Rapture and I've heard that it will come after. Which is it?

We don't know for sure. What the Bible is clear on is that there will be a Rapture (**I Thessalonians 4, Matthew 24**), a seven year Tribulation (**Daniel 9**), a 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom (**Revelation 20**), a New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem (**Revelation 21**). The Millennial kingdom will follow the Rapture and Tribulation and the New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem will follow the Millennial Kingdom. So, most of what is to come is clear and spelled out in detail. The only point that isn't as clear is the exact ordering of the Rapture and the Tribulation. There are 3 views on this timing referred to as Pre-Tribulation, Mid-Tribulation, and Post-Tribulation. The Pre-Tribulation view is the view that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation starts. Passages supporting this view: 1) In **Matthew 24** Jesus said that no man would know the day or the hour of His return. The 490 year prophetic clock revealed in **Daniel 9:20-27** stopped when Jesus was crucified. It has remained stopped with 7 years left to go on it during the Church Age that we are in now. The clock will restart in the future when Israel signs a treaty with the Anti-Christ. On the day that treaty gets signed we can predict the coming of Christ to the Earth to the exact day. Therefore, Christ must have been referring to some other time that he would be coming that would not be predictable. This would be the Rapture and would have to occur before the Tribulation. 2) Another point of support is that Daniel's prophetic clock coincides with God using Israel to reveal Himself to the world. The clock stopped with 7 years left on it because during the Church Age (which started when Jesus was crucified) God stopped using Israel as His primary method of revealing Himself to the world (**Romans 11**). Instead He has been using the Church (Christians). The reason the prophetic clock will restart to finish off the last 7 years during the Tribulation is because God will once again be using Israel to reveal Himself to the world during this 7 year time period. Why? Because the Church will be gone! It will have been raptured before the Tribulation.

The Post-Tribulation view is the view that the Rapture will occur at the end of the Tribulation simultaneously with the Second Coming of Christ. Upon Jesus' return, believers will meet Him in the air and will then accompany Him in His return to the Earth. Passages used to support this view are **Matthew 24** and the parable of the Wheat & Tares (**Matthew 13**). However, when Christ returns to Earth at the end of the 7 year Tribulation He will destroy all unbelievers (**Matthew 13, Revelation 19, II Thessalonians 1, Luke 17**). Therefore only believers will enter Christ's Millennial kingdom of 1,000 year reign on the Earth. But at the end of this 1,000 years Satan will lead a large number of people in a rebellion against Christ (**Revelation 20**). Who are these people? They can only be the children of the believers who made it all the way through the Tribulation without dying and entered the Millennial kingdom in their fallen bodies. Some of the descendants of these people do not follow Christ and rebel against Him at the end of the 1,000 years. If this is the case then we know that some people, in their current fallen state, will enter the Millennial kingdom. This can only be true if the Rapture occurs before or in the middle of the Tribulation. The Rapture cannot occur at the end of the Tribulation because then everyone on Earth would be an unbeliever when Christ returns and He would destroy them. If that happened there would be no people existing in their fallen bodies who could have children during the Millennial kingdom.

The Mid-Tribulation view is the view that the Rapture will occur halfway through the Tribulation and Christians will endure the phase of the Tribulation which tests their faith, but that they will be removed before the last half occurs, because that three and one-half year period is dominated by the wrath of God falling on those who reject him. Supporters of this view often cite **1 Thessalonians 5:9**, "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Other passages used to support this view include **II Thessalonians 2 & II Timothy 3:1**. However, **Revelation 3:10** indicates that this time of testing is not intended for those who are already Christians.

The bottom line is that you should examine all of these scriptures and ask God to help you come to the right conclusion. However, because the timing of the Rapture is not a critical doctrinal issue committed Christians can legitimately come to different conclusions (**Romans 14**). (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18 & I Corinthians 15:51-57, Matthew 24, Daniel 9:20-27, Revelation 20, Revelation 21, Romans 11, Matthew 13, Revelation 19, II Thessalonians 1:6-10, Luke 17:22-37, I Thessalonians 5:9-11, II Thessalonians 2:1-12 & II Timothy 3:1, Revelation 3:7-13, Romans 14**)

What's the reference to the verse about "Love your enemy ..."?

It shows up in Matthew 5 and Luke 6. See below:

Matthew 5:43-48 - "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 6:27-36 - "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.²⁹ Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either.³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back.³¹ Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Is it bad to date when you are in your early teens or should you wait until you are older?

This question is best answered by your parents but let me give you a few things to think about. During the thousands of years that people have been on the Earth there was no dating until about 100 years ago. Before that people got to know one another as they worked together in the community and marriages happened quickly without much in the way of dating. The closest people came to dating was “courting” or “calling” which existed up until the mid-1920’s in America.

Calling was a process where a man came over to a woman’s house and, if she allowed him in, they would spend time in the parlor under the supervision of the woman’s parents. The purpose of “calling” was to determine if the couple should be married. The advantages of this process were that the woman and her parents had control of the situation. There was little, if any, opportunity to engage in sensuality (kissing and touching) much less sexual activity. The intent of both people was clear. They knew each other from observation in public settings and activities in the community and church. Now they were exploring the possibility of marriage. This began to change in the 1920’s. In cities, the less well off did not have parlors so couples began to “date” away from the home. The practice was soon adopted by the upper and middle classes. This took the couple away from parental supervision, one of the advantages of calling.

In the 1950’s dating changed dramatically. The automobile provided not only privacy from parents but privacy from the public. At the same time people no longer thought of “dating” as something you do as a final evaluation before marriage. It was now an end in itself. It was a chance to “have some fun”. It also completed the transition of power from the woman to the man. The man picked up the woman, took her away from her parents, paid for the entertainment, etc. The man now had control of the situation. Dating was now viewed primarily as a method of entertainment as well as an indicator of popularity. The end result of these changes is that sensuality (intimate kissing and touching) increased dramatically as part of the dating process. In addition these changes increased the level of misunderstanding in relationships. Some were dating with an intent toward marriage while others were more interested in entertainment and sensuality. Today, the world’s view on dating is that sensuality is expected and sexual activity is OK if done “safely”.

But God’s standards have never changed. He views people as single or married, period. There is no special situation with its own rules called dating, going steady, etc. The idea of dating is a recent invention of the world system.

Its important that you understand that dating is a high risk activity. For example, a girl may be very committed to maintaining her purity while dating but constant pressure from a boy who wants to be sensual can wear down her defenses and prey on her fear of being abandoned. Likewise a boy who is very committed to maintaining his purity while dating will collapse if the girl makes aggressive sensual advances (which does happen).

In addition, when someone wants to date you, you don’t really know the reason why. You can hope, you can wish, and you can dream – but you don’t really know why, do you? Some of the reasons they might want to date you include: physical intimacy (kissing, touching, or sex) without emotional intimacy, emotional intimacy without physical intimacy (romantic experiences), emotional and physical intimacy without commitment, to have new entertaining experiences (the good timer), to have someone else pay for gifts and experiences they want to have (the gold digger), to be seen as normal by others (if you don’t date there must be something wrong with you), to participate in the social circuit (parties, dances, etc.), or to find someone to marry. Except for the last reason all of the other reasons have an element of using the other person for a selfish gain of some type. This puts you at risk of being used by the other person.

Dating one-on-one also has other risks that you need to be aware of: It tends to skip friendship and go right to romance. Instead of working together on a common interest, the relationship itself becomes the focus. It tends to isolate you from other people. It distracts you from preparing for your future or from serving God. It tends to make people feel discontent with being single. It creates an artificial atmosphere for evaluating another person’s character. It trains people to have serial relationships instead of one committed one.

Please consider the following four recommendations:

- 1) Don’t date one-on-one until you are emotionally ready and financially able to get married.
If it’s the right person, emotional intimacy is going to snowball rapidly and temptations for physical intimacy are going to ramp up. If the ability to marry is not available, you have a problem.
- 2) Before you are ready for marriage spend time with the opposite sex in group settings. Church service projects are a great way to get to know people and observe how they react in real life situations.
- 3) Focus on serving God and preparing for your future. Its hard to know if you want to marry someone if you don’t know what they are going to be or what you are going to be.
- 4) Trust God – Let Him take care of getting you the right person at the right time. God delights in those who follow him closely and obey Him. God takes pleasure in arranging circumstances in order to orchestrate the bringing together of two people who have set themselves apart for each other in obedience to Him.

(I Corinthians 7:1-9, Proverbs 4:23-27, Matthew 6:31-34, II Timothy 2:22, Romans 12:10-13, Colossians 3:1-7, Jeremiah 29:11-12, Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 23:17-18, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Romans 13:8-14)

What does Hades (Abraham's bosom) look like: fiery, paradise, or somewhere in between?

Abraham's bosom was a place imagined by the Jewish leaders of Jesus' time where the righteous would dwell. It is only mentioned once in the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16. It is not a real place it is just something that some Jewish leaders of Jesus' time believed in out of tradition. Likewise Hades (New Testament) or Sheol (Old Testament) are terms used to represent the dwelling place of the dead. Today we might use the word, "afterlife" instead of these terms. See answer to the next question.

How freely will people in Hell be permitted to converse with Christians in Heaven? I know the story of the rich man and Lazarus – is there any other place in the Bible that mentions people in Hell talking to people in Heaven?

Luke 16:19-31 - "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.²⁰ And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,²¹ and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.²² Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.²³ In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.²⁴ And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.'²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'³⁰ But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

No. There do not appear to be conversations between people who are in Hell and people who are in Heaven. The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus is not a doctrinal passage and, therefore, is not intended to describe the afterlife. What Jesus was doing was teaching the Jewish leaders of that time period a lesson using their own traditions and beliefs. At the time the Jewish leaders viewed themselves as "Children of Abraham" (**Matthew 3, John 8**). Notice in the parable that the rich man never talks with Lazarus, he is talking with Abraham. In addition heaven and hell are never mentioned. Instead the terms used are, Abraham's Bosom and Hades. Hades just means a place where the dead dwell. It is a New Testament term equivalent to the term Sheol in the Old Testament. Abraham's bosom is a place that Jewish leaders imagined themselves going to when they died because of their righteousness. Jesus used these terms because they were familiar to the Jewish leaders He was trying to teach. He was not declaring them to be true and accurate by mentioning them. The idea is similar to what we do in the Bridge Illustration when we ask people if they are on God's side, Man's side, or somewhere in the middle. Even though it is not doctrinally possible to be "in the middle" a lot of people feel like that is where they are. Instead of arguing over this feeling we just want them to focus on what is needed to get to God's side. In the same way Jesus is not arguing with the Jewish leaders about their beliefs in the afterlife. Instead He is shaping a story around their beliefs to point out a larger lesson. The lesson He was trying to show them was that the Jewish leaders, who were very similar to the description of the rich man, were destined to punishment because they did not heed the message of Moses and the Prophets describing the coming of the Messiah (Jesus). Jesus even told them that they would ignore the greatest sign of all, Jesus' future resurrection from the dead. Although the overall message was harsh, Jesus' mention of His future resurrection is a demonstration of His grace in giving them one last reason to believe in Him after He rises from the dead. In reality the Bible teaches that people in Hell will be weeping and gnashing their teeth, not talking (**Matthew chapters 8, 13, 22, & 24**). In addition **Revelation 14** indicates that the angels of heaven and Jesus can see what goes on in Hell but there is no indication that people in heaven will be able to do so. Definition of gnash: to strike or grind (as the teeth) together.

(Mat 3:4-10, John 8:31-40, Mat 8:5-13, Mat 13:36-43, Mat 22:1-14, Mat 24:45-51, Revelation 14:9-11)

Why are there different seasons like summer and winter?

Genesis 1 says that God created the universe in such a way that people could keep track of time in terms of days, weeks, months, seasons, and years. In many ways the universe, as observed from Earth, has very precise timing characteristics. The Earth's rotation on its axis provides our 24 hour day. God Himself defined the week using His own pattern of creating the universe in 6 days and resting on the 7th. The interactions of the Sun and the Moon, as observed from Earth, define months and correspond to seasons. The seasons define the four parts of a year which also defines a year. Why did God create these things? Because He wanted to. Also, **I Corinthians 14** says that God is not a God of confusion. He likes things to be well done and orderly. As far as the mechanism God used to create the seasons the answer is that the spin axis of the Earth is tilted 23.5 degrees off of vertical. If the spin axis of the Earth was vertical with respect to our orbital path around the Sun there would be no seasons. The weather where you live would be the same year round. During winter the hemisphere you live in is tilted away from the Sun. Because of this the light from the Sun has to travel through more of the Earth's atmosphere before it gets to the Earth's surface. Also, because of the tilt, the sunlight that reaches the Earth hits it at a low angle so more of it reflects off the surface and less is absorbed and changed into heat. These two effects are why winter is colder than summer. The opposite occurs during the summer.

(Genesis 1:14-19, I Corinthians 14:33, Genesis 8:20-22, Psalm 74:17, Psalm 104:19, Colossians 1:15-16)

What is the meaning of the miracle of Jesus' turning water into wine in John 2:1-11?

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." So they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it to him. When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him."

This was Jesus' first recorded miracle and one of the most interesting because of how different it is from His other miracles. There are a lot of things going on here so we will try to unpack them one at a time. First, it is important to remember that this is not a doctrinal passage, it is historical narrative. In other words we are seeing what happened to Jesus, Mary, the disciples, the servants, and the others during a particular historical event. It is not intended to teach us doctrinal lessons for us to apply ourselves but to allow us to understand Jesus, Mary, and the disciples better. The purpose of this miracle is directed primarily at Mary and the disciples and, to a lesser extent, the servants. It is not intended for the wedding guests, the bride and groom, or the general public.

Mary appears to be a close friend of the family who is playing a role in the presentation of refreshments at the wedding feast. She is paying attention to the refreshments and giving orders to the servants, which they follow. In addition she knows who her son Jesus really is. She has been visited by angels and experienced the virgin birth and has spent the last 30 years or so with Him so she knows that He really is the Son of God. During most of these years as Jesus' mother she has also grown accustomed to telling Him to do things and having Him obey her as a son would obey his parents (Luke 2:51). Mary, as the mother of a son, has gotten into the habit of telling her son (who in this case is also Almighty God) what to do. This is a very unusual relationship! But it is about to change.

In Mary's role at the wedding feast she notices that the wine is running low. She mentions this to Jesus knowing that He could fix this if He wanted to, just as any mother would talk to her son. But Jesus is not just any son. He is God. In two short sentences Jesus makes it clear to Mary that the rules of their relationship are now changing. From this point on Mary must view Jesus not as a son who should obey her but as the God she must follow. Jesus is gentle with her yet firm. The issue of the wine in and of itself is irrelevant. The consequences of running out of wine are trivial. No one is dying or is lame or blind. So, the purpose of the miracle is not about the wine. It is partially about making clear to Mary that, although a faithful servant of God, she is no different from anyone else – she no longer holds a special position of influence with Jesus. Mary gets the message as evidenced by her statement to the servants to do whatever Jesus says. He may say nothing. He may say something. It is totally up to Him. Jesus will make the decisions, not Mary.

Now that this issue has been taken care of Jesus can answer her request and provide new wine if He wishes. If He had done this without first taking care of the issue of the change in their relationship it could have caused Mary to continue to relate to Jesus in an inappropriate way. This is why Jesus said what He said to her before doing the miracle.

By this time Jesus had been proclaimed the Messiah by John the Baptist and He had some of His disciples with Him (John 1). However, since He had not performed any public miracles yet Jesus was not well known. Jesus' disciples are following Him primarily because of the testimony of John the Baptist. Although His disciples have spent some time with Him they don't know Him as well as Mary does and their faith in Jesus is less mature than Mary's. Jesus will use this miracle to strengthen the faith of His disciples as stated in verse 11. This is the second purpose of this miracle.

Notice that Jesus states that His hour has not yet come. This means that it is not time for Him to be publicly known as someone who can do miracles. Therefore, Jesus will do the miracle of changing water into wine as quietly as possible. In fact, it is likely that the wedding guests did not know that a miracle had occurred. Jesus, Mary, the disciples, and a few of the servants knew but no one else. The servants knew that the water turned into wine but because they were of low status in society it is unlikely they would talk about it except amongst themselves or if they did talk about it it is not clear who would believe them. It would not be until later, after Jesus had performed many miracles, that people would believe the servants and realize that He had also done a miracle at the wedding feast of Cana.

Why was the timing of His miracles becoming public so important? Because as soon as Jesus began performing public miracles He was constantly pressed by large crowds wanting healings. This was not something you would want to start until everything was ready.

In preparation for His public ministry, Jesus did a perfect job of using this miracle as the time to redefine His relationship with Mary and strengthen the faith of His new disciples without revealing Himself to the public as able to do miracles.

(John chapters 1 & 2, Luke 2:51, Matthew 4:23-24, Mark 1:27-34, Luke 4:40-43, John 2:23-25)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How can I explain Hell to a non-christian without being offensive?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 5:8-10, II Timothy 1:8-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 5:18-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 1:18-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How can I explain Hell to a non-christian without being offensive?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 4:3-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 2:14-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 4:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Did Jesus have long hair / Why do cool kids exclude uncool kids ?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 11:14-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 12:42-43, Matthew 20:25-28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 29:25-27, Isaiah 40:23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why do cool kids exclude uncool kids?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ecclesiastes 10:4*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 1:49-52*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will the Tribulation come before or after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4:13-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:51-57*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew chapter 24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will the Tribulation come before or after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Daniel 9:20-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation chapter 20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation chapter 21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will the Tribulation come before or after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans chapter 11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew chapter 13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation chapter 19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will the Tribulation come before or after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Thessalonians 1:6-10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 17:22-37*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 5:9-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will the Tribulation come before or after the Rapture?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 3:1, II Thessalonians 2:1-12*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 3:7-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans chapter 14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Is it bad to date in your early teens or should you wait until you are older?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 7:1-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Proverbs 4:23-27*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 6:31-34*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Is it bad to date in your early teens or should you wait until you are older?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Jeremiah 29:11-12, Proverbs 23:17-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalms 37:23-24*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:22, Romans 12:10-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Is it bad to date in your early teens or should you wait until you are older?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 3:1-7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4:1-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 13:8-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Love your enemies / Can people in Hell talk to people in Heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 16:19-31*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 3:4-10, John 8:31-40*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Can people in Hell talk to people in Heaven?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 8:5-1, Matthew 13:36-43*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 22:1-14, Matthew 24:45-51*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 14:9-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why are there different seasons like summer and winter?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 1:14-19, Genesis 8:20-22*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 74:17, Psalm 104:19*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 14:33, Colossians 1:15-16*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of the miracle of Jesus' turning water into wine?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John chapter 2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 2:51*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *What is the meaning of the miracle of Jesus' turning water into wine?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 4:23-24, Mark 1:27-34*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 4:40-43*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *John 2:23-25*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?