

How to Live Effectively

Matthew 26:1-13

Introduction:

- Is effective living based on race, income, safety, circumstances?
 1. There are disadvantaged people who live effectively and advantaged people who don't live effectively.
 2. Jesus was born disadvantaged – a person of c _____; part of an inferior race by the world's standards; owned nothing but the c _____ on His back. But Jesus lived effectively.
- Living in a society with no bias, no injustice, no poverty, would be nice.
 1. We can m _____ the above but we cannot eliminate them.
 2. Such things are not a barrier to living effectively.
- Our text is Matt 26:1-13 where we find two principles that if we apply them, will enable us to live effectively regardless of our race, income, or circumstance.

We must l _____ to Jesus above our own hearts

- What were the apostles hearing from Jesus in this last week of His earthly life?
 1. He must d _____ by crucifixion but would rise on the third day (Matt 20:17-20)
 2. He must give His life as the p _____ that would free believers from their sins (Matt 20:28)
- What were the apostles listening to? – their own h _____, for they could not accept the idea of a Messiah that would suffer death especially by crucifixion (see Matt 26:51).
- Jesus fixed the date of His death as P _____ (Matt 26:2).
 1. This was not the time that the religious leaders had in mind. They wanted to wait until a _____ the festival was over (v. 5).
 2. J _____ becomes the key figure in bringing Jesus to His death on Passover. Jesus must die at this time (God's plan).
- Jesus preserved His teachings for us:
 1. Through the a _____ (Jn 14:26; 16:12-15) – the New Testament.
 2. Jesus and His teachings fulfill the Old Testament, which Jesus called the Law and the P _____ (Matt 5:17,18).

3. We must listen to His word and live them out.

● Examples of listening to Jesus above our own hearts.

1. Salvation from eternal punishment

a. Many people listen to their own hearts – *I am a good person; if I follow this religion, I will be okay; there are many ways to God.*

b. We must listen to the one who died and rose from the dead – Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Matt 24:14; 28:18-20)

2. Behaviors – we must conform our ways to Jesus's words (e.g. in marriage)

a. What behaviors are creating barriers – your s_____ usually has a better perspective than you).

b. What behaviors can break down those barriers (l_____ and r_____ - Eph 5).

3. Attitudes

a. Resentment, holding grudges are never justified – they only contribute to further d_____ (added stress, physical and mental health adversely affected)

b. F_____ is the key to right attitudes

1) There is no l_____ to the number of times we must forgive others (Matt 18:21,22)

2) Forgiveness releases us from victimizing ourselves with the p_____ and affords opportunity for harmony (Matt 5:23,24; Rom 12:18).

We must s_____ Jesus in spite of what others think

● The person who listened to Jesus better than the apostles was a w_____ named Mary (see Jn 12)

1. She was the sister of Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead even though he had been dead _____ days.

2. She poured perfume over Jesus's head which poured d_____ (the Greek text means this) His body.

a. Such perfume was only for women to smell nice (a few drops) and d_____ people to smell nice (a whole bottle).

b. Such perfume was very e_____.

● The apostles objected to this pouring because it could have been sold and the proceeds given to the p_____ (v. 9).

● Jesus reveals what Mary did this for – His b_____ (v. 12)

1. Mary had listened to Jesus, accepting His words that He must d_____ and served Him by preparing Him for burial.
 2. She was not concerned with p_____ the apostles, only Jesus. The Bible warns against being people-pleasers (Matt 6:2,5; Col 3:22).
- Serving Christ in the face of opposition
1. Holding to the biblical standard for sexuality
 - a. Personally (1Cor 6:18-20; Heb 13:4; Gen 2:24; Matt 19:4-6; Rom 1:26,27) – this is serving Christ.
 - b. With l_____, holding other believers accountable (1 Cor 6:9-11) – this is serving Christ.
 2. Education and creation
 - a. Holding to God as the c_____ and not evolution – this is serving Christ.
 - b. Not conceding to pressures like – *you won't graduate or get a degree unless you reject creationism.* This is serving Christ.
 3. The work force – humbly refusing to l_____ for your employer – this is serving Christ.
 4. The local church – we must deal with dissension (this is serving Christ).
 - a. Is the dissension over an opinion, a philosophy, a tradition, or a biblical matter?
 - b. What does the Bible tell us that we must do?
 - c. Is it possible to have a difference but remain unified without compromising God's word?
 - d. Is my attitude l_____, my aim obedience to Jesus, and goal unity?

Conclusion:

Don't let racism, injustice, economics, politics, etc. dictate whether or not you live effectively. Effective living is found only in our Savior, Jesus Christ.