

# SWISS ARMY KNIFE

Week 6

## SHARE

Everyone has a little disdain for education and study. Don't ya think?

## SEEK

### Study

Concerning preaching, Dr. David Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, "A man who imagines that because he has a head full of knowledge that he is sufficient for these things had better start learning again. 'Who is sufficient for these things?' What are you doing? You are not simply imparting information, you are dealing with souls, you are dealing with pilgrims on the way to eternity, you are dealing with matters not only of life and death in this world, but with eternal destiny." The same can be said of Jesus' words in Matthew 7.24-27.

Jesus gives the admonition to put His words into practice, to make them part of one's life. But for what purpose? So that the foundation is strong for when the rain comes, the streams rise, and the winds blow. In other words, Jesus' words are like cinder blocks. And if you apply them correctly, they will fortify your life to face any difficulty. This does not mean that the rain will not come, the streams will not rise, and the winds will not blow; rather, it means that in the midst of such difficulties they can be withstood.

There is a two-step process here that Jesus gives: (1) "...Everyone who hears these words of mine and (2) puts them into practice..." (v24). In theological language this is called (1) Exegesis and (2) Hermeneutics. Exegesis is studying the Bible in order to accurately hear what the scriptures are saying. Hermeneutics is application of what has been heard in order to better obey the Lord. The challenge today is to resist jumping immediately into hermeneutics (application) before doing proper study (exegesis). To do application first before Bible study, you might think the Bible is recommending something that it is not. To do Bible study without application of some sort, the head is filled but the body is stilled.

Church studies have shown over and over that most people in a given American congregation do not read their Bibles on a daily basis. Some say they cannot understand the Bible. Some are intimidated by it. Some are just outright bored by the Bible! But Jesus is saying in Matthew 7 that, like DNA, His words are the very building blocks of life, and can weather any storm.

# SEE

STUDY

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF DR. DAVID MARTYN LLOYD-JONES' QUOTE? DO YOU THINK THAT STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES IS MORE THAN IMPARTING INFORMATION? DO THE SCRIPTURES DEAL WITH SOULS AND ETERNAL DESTINY?

MANY HAVE SAID THAT WHEN THEY BECAME CHRISTIANS, LIFE DID NOT EXACTLY GET BETTER; RATHER, IT BECAME MORE DIFFICULT! IN THE FACE OF MANY DIFFERENT DIFFICULTIES, PEOPLE LEAVE CHRISTIANITY BEHIND. READ JESUS' WORDS IN MATTHEW 7.24-27. WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY FOR THOSE WHO FACE DIFFICULTIES?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXEGESIS AND HERMENEUTICS? WHICH ONE SHOULD YOU ENGAGE IN FIRST? WHY? WHAT KIND OF ERRORS CAN ARISE IF YOU ONLY DO ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER?

IF JESUS TELLS US THAT HIS WORDS ARE THE WORDS TO LIVE BY, YET SO MANY IN THE AMERICAN CHURCH ARE NOT READING THEIR BIBLES, WE HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS! WHY DO YOU THINK MANY DO NOT READ THEIR BIBLES? IF YOU DO NOT CONSIDER YOURSELF AN ACTIVE READER OF THE BIBLE, WHAT THINGS CAN YOU DO TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another