

LESSON 6 – *Not Adding to God’s Message in the Bible*

Questions and Answers – Student Guide

Lesson goal: We know what God wants us to do with his Word, namely, learn its message, believe it, and found our faith on it. His Word assures us that Jesus has saved us! Today we will answer the question, “What are Christians *not* to do with God’s message in the Bible?”

Pre-lesson Preparation: Read Matthew 15:1-9.

Think

Picture yourself mixing up batter for a luscious chocolate cake. You add the flour, eggs, cocoa, oil, baking powder, baking soda, a dash of salt, and some vanilla. So far so good. Then you add a cup of what you think is sugar. Accidentally salt had been put into the sugar container, and you didn’t know it! How would this one different ingredient change the outcome of the cake?

Change isn’t always good! Some things just shouldn’t be messed with. Adding something new to the mix of anything in life is not always good or helpful. We have to be careful, especially in our spiritual lives. We know what we *are* to do with God’s Word: hear it, believe it, build our faith on its saving truths, and share those truths with others.

Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved? How?

Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach you to do in this lesson?

Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

Additional questions

13. Imagine that a parent needs insulin for treating diabetes. A child does not give the medicine to the parent, but instead sells it and gives the money to a church. Who in the Matthew account would have had no problem with what this child did?

14. Jesus showed his accusers the error of their thinking. What two things did he use to help prove his point?
15. God has given us what we need in his Word. He shows us how we are saved through Jesus' perfect life, his death in our place, and his rising from the dead. In our Bible reading, Jesus showed how important it is to stick with what God says and not add anything else to it or change it in any way. Some Christian churches do add their own rules to what God has given to us. They may mean well and want their people to lead good lives and avoid the troubles that sinful lifestyles bring, but they are leading people to trust in what *they do* instead of what *Jesus has done* for them. Read each manmade rule and the Bible section that follows it. Then, as a child of God who obeys him out of love and thanks, explain how you might respond to someone who insists that the rule is necessary to follow.
- A. Drinking alcohol is a sin. (Read John 2:1-11.)
 - B. My church says it's wrong to play cards and to dance. (Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.)
 - C. My church says that I must give 10% of everything I own to the church. It also says that God will make me gain riches if I do this. (Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.)
16. God demands perfection, and all people have sinned and fallen short of the perfection God requires. (Romans 3:23) People who add rules and regulations to what God has said often feel that by obeying them they are working their way into God's favor and therefore into heaven. What stress must people who think they can work their way into heaven on their own have?
17. Perfection is what God demands. What perfection will you point these people to?

Lesson wrap-up

18. What are Christians *not* to do with God's message in the Bible?