

Life Group Notes 5/25/2025

What Heaven Hears and Earth Reveals—Pastor Mark Warren

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 5/25. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote speaks:

1. [On heavenly battles reflected on earth.](#)
2. [On God protecting the humble.](#)
3. [On Greek tenses and binding and loosing on earth and in heaven.](#)
4. [On Beelzebub/Beelzebub.](#)

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

We began this week honoring those whose lives were lost in service to this country.

1. Do you have a memory to share?
2. What does Memorial Day bring to mind.

Pastor then moved on to this weekend, and the lively happenings at the church.

1. Talk about the night of worship.
2. Did God reveal anything personally to you?
3. Were you involved with the youth night? Do you have a testimony?

This week's message, the tenth in the series "Kingdom Come" pastor entitled **"What Heaven Hears and Earth Reveals."**

1. What do you remember?
2. What struck you, and spoke most deeply?

3. Did you leave “different than when you walked in,” as Pastor prayed? Care to share?

He began saying, “It might surprise you to know that what takes place here on earth is a mirror to what is going on in heaven. There is something going on in Heaven that we cannot see, but it is in some way reflected here on earth.

1. What do you know?
2. What have you seen of this? How is heaven reflected here?

⑥ **Who is the Greatest?** (Hint: It's not who you'd expect...)

He leans in, saying, “There’s a question that we all face at one time or another, being, ‘How do we measure up? Where do we stand in God’s eyes in this kingdom. Who is the greatest in the kingdom?’” He says, “This is what the disciples were asking.”

Pastor begins with Matthew 18: *1At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

1. Context is important for this question, look at what transpired in the immediately previous verses: Mt 17: *24After they had arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, “Does your Teacher pay the two drachmas?” 25“Yes,” he answered. When Peter entered the house, Jesus preempted him. “What do you think, Simon?” He asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs and taxes: from their own sons, or from others?” 26“From others,” Peter answered. “Then the sons are exempt,” Jesus said to him. 27“But so that we may not offend them, go to the sea, cast a hook, and take the first fish you catch. When you open its mouth, you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for My tax and yours.”* How does the question of “who’s the greatest,” arise from this context? Is it a reasonable question?
2. How “great” are the sons?
3. How great, then, are we?
4. Who is greater, Peter, James and John? Or you? How do you know?

Look, now at Jesus’ answer: *2Jesus invited a little child to stand among them. 3“Truly I tell you,” He said, “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.*

1. What do you see? Now say which of you five, Peter or John, James or Pastor Mark...or you is greater?
2. Who is the most humble? Prove it...for the rest of your life.
3. How many children have you welcomed lately? Do you have a testimony?
4. What steps do you take to “humble yourself?”

⑥ **Opportunities come your way when humility leads the way.**

1. Explain.
2. Are we talking about how we enter heaven? Or how we open doors?
3. When does heaven start? How is today a manifestation of heaven?
4. To what degree is heaven manifested here on earth?
5. How does being born again begin this process? What has passed away? What has become new?

Examine what Paul told the Corinthians in 2 Cor 5: *4For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. 15And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. 16So from now on we regard no one according to the flesh.*

*Although we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's trespasses against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

1. What do you see?
2. For whom did Christ die? What was Christ's motive?
3. For whom did He not die? If all have died, who did not die?
4. Why don't all believe this? Whose job is it to announce this historic fact?
5. Look at verse 16. Is this difficult? Or easy to do?
6. Going back to Matthew with this in mind, what's the difference between a little child's approach, and that of an adult?
7. See what Paul reminded the Ephesians of in chapter 2: **8***For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9**not by works, so that no one can boast. **10**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.* Explain how important the attitude of a child is to even grasp this principle.
8. Who started these good works of ours? Who will also complete it?
9. What verse from Philippians says this?

Review Matthew 5: **3***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

1. How does this fit?
2. What does it mean to be poor of spirit? How does one become rich of spirit?
3. Why is it not by a lottery of spirit? Where is the well of the spirit?
4. How do we know we need a savior, that we cannot do anything apart from Him?
5. Look up John 15: **4***Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. **5**I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.* Where does humility fit?
6. How does this illustrate poverty in spirit?
7. To what degree is humility essential for life and fruit?
8. Now look up Philippians 4: **12***I know how to live humbly, and I know how to abound. I am accustomed to any and every situation—to being filled and being hungry, to having plenty and having need. **13**I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.* How is this not a contradiction to what Jesus said above?
9. Describe the reward of humility...i.e. staying in the vine

Review Matthew 5: **5***Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

1. Pastor defines the term, "Meekness is strength under control." Explain. How was Moses meek?
2. If the kingdom of heaven goes to the poor in spirit, who remain in the vine; and the inheritance of the earth is bequeathed to the meek, can you explain how one can bring Heaven to earth? What steps are required?
3. What do you inherit when you inherit the earth?

© How Do We Handle Conflict and Forgiveness?

Now go to Matthew 18: **15***If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. **16**But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' **17**If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he*

refuses to listen even to the church, regard him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

18*Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19**Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.*

20*For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them."*

1. What do you see?
2. Prove by these verses that being humble does not involve becoming a doormat.
3. Is it possible that brothers actually do sin against brothers?
4. List the steps Jesus outlines to take when a brother sins against you.
5. Can you think of other helpful steps you've also taken?
6. What is the goal of taking these steps?
7. How important is it, not to be alone? How do witnesses help?
8. Do you have a testimony where you have won a brother over?
9. Look at verse eighteen. What is the impact in heaven of what we do on earth?
10. Look at the nature of the assurance Jesus grants us in verse 19. What exceptions does He include?
11. Have you heard messages that proposed exceptions?
12. Look at verse 20. How very really is He with us?
13. Look at verse 20 in the context of Him being the vine and we the branches. What comes to mind?

Now look at what Peter asks in the next verse: **21***Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22**Jesus answered, "I tell you, not just seven times, but seventy-seven times!"*

1. Why does Peter ask this question in the context of binding and loosing?
2. How important is the forgiveness we extend in the context of the above promises?
3. Review what Jesus told the disciples after teaching the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6: **14***For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours.* Apply the principles of binding and loosing here. Does this help create a balance to the doctrine of binding and loosing?
4. When we extend forgiveness, Who else is extending forgiveness?
5. When we withhold forgiveness, who loses?
6. Describe grace as a weapon in the spirit. Can you? What happens when you extend/wield grace? Who is set free?
7. How does this principle illustrate what we pray in the Lord's prayer: "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" What is the place of forgiveness in heaven? In God's will?
8. How can we reflect on earth what we know is always extended in heaven?
9. What do I need to address in my own attitude?

Examine Matthew 7: **1***"Do not judge, or you will be judged. 2**For with the same judgment [verdict] you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure [ruler/yardstick/mile marker] you use, it will be measured to you.* (Clarification added.)

1. What measure do you use? How generous are your measurements?
2. How does this verse repeat the principle of 5:14-15 above and forgiveness?
3. Mark speaks of our offering as an application of this principle: "As you are generous with God, He is generous with you." Do you have a testimony?
4. Mark says, "We can never measure up. We can never earn favor." Explain?
5. Is it even possible to get more favor than we already have? How?

6. How is the favor we extend the measure of the favor we receive? Is this earned? Or already loosed on our behalf? (See [footnote 4 below](#).)
7. Mark says, "There is a spiritual law here that says, as we live our lives there is something that is being reflected in heaven, and we become a reflection of that. When you realize that the kingdom of heaven is not somewhere out there, but is present wherever it's brought to light, you begin to experience it. We cannot see it, and we can experience it." Explain.
- ⑥ **What Does It Mean to Blaspheme the Holy Spirit?** (And why that one decision changes everything.)

Go back to Matthew 12. Leading us in, Mark says, "The Holy Spirit is Key to knowing God. Refuse Him, and you refuse eternal life." Examine these verses: **22***Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed the man so that he could speak and see. 23*The crowds were astounded and asked, "Could this be the Son of David?" **24***But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "Only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, does this man drive out demons." 25*Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. **26***If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? 27*And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. **28***But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29*Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. **30***He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. 31*Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. **32***Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the one to come.*

1. What do you see here?
2. What prompted the Pharisees to say anything this reckless and foolish.
3. Look at verse 25. What dangers are we facing when we forget this principle?
4. Who else's thoughts does Jesus know? Do you remember that?
5. According to verse 25, what are the chances that a divided kingdom survive?
6. Look at verse 27. Answer Jesus' question. Did you ever know that sons of Pharisees could drive out demons in Jesus' day?
7. Review Matthew 10:**31***So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 32*Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father in heaven. **33***But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven.* What do you see?
8. Put this principle into your own words. How does one get denied before the Father in heaven?
9. To what degree did the Pharisees deny Jesus before men?
10. Pastor Mark says, "The only way you can blaspheme the Holy Spirit is when you start rejecting the work of Jesus on the cross." Explain. Does this help?
11. Look at vv. 31-32. What were the Pharisees doing and teaching others to do?
12. With all this talk of forgiving and receiving forgiveness, how is this principle key to understanding salvation and rejection?
13. Since it is the Spirit Who drew you to Him, and Who draws all men to Him, what are the necessary, obvious consequences of rejecting His invitation?

14. How is rejecting forgiveness the unpardonable sin? How does one's choice play into this?
15. Can we mess up and still be saved? How can we encourage each other unto salvation?
16. Why do we need Jesus in our lives? Grace in our lives? To remain poor in spirit?

© **Why Your Words Reveal Your Heart.** (And how they echo into eternity.)

Going back to Matthew 12: [33](#) Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is known by its fruit. [34](#) You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [35](#) The good man brings good things out of his good store of treasure, and the evil man brings evil things out of his evil store of treasure. [36](#) But I tell you that men will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37](#) For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

1. What do you see?
2. If you plant a fruit tree, what can you expect?
3. What can you expect when you plant poison ivy?
4. He calls the Pharisees a "brood of vipers." What good can be expected of the pronouncements of snakes' offspring?
5. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." Have you ever noticed this? In yourself?
6. Do you have a testimony? How did you correct your own bad habits to prevent what you used to say so often?
7. Explain this principle: It's adultery when you look at another with lust. It's murder when you call another "fool." What is going on in the heart?
8. Compare this principle to what Jesus says in Matthew 15: [17](#) *"Do you not yet realize that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then is eliminated?"* [18](#) *But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these things defile a man.* [19](#) *For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander.* What do you see?
9. Mark says, "What you speak reveals who you are." Explain.
10. Explain why one is defiled by what comes out and not by what goes in.
11. What is the fruit of what goes into the mouth? What's the fruit of what comes out?
12. What role do the eyes play in interacting with the soul? How do evil thoughts get planted in the heart in the first place?
13. What do you watch? What do you listen to?
14. Remember Proverbs 4: *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it come the boundaries of [your own] life.* How does your heart set boundaries?
15. Does this principle of setting boundaries help explain what Jesus says above?
16. Pastor Mark continues, "Jesus says, 'The fruit of your words reveals the root of your heart.'" Explain.
17. "What comes out of your lips reveal what is actually in your heart." Have you known this principle? How do you apply it?
18. Read this again from [above](#): [34](#) *You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.* [35](#) *The good man brings good things out of his good store of treasure, and the evil man brings evil things out of his evil store of treasure.* [36](#) *But I tell you that men will give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.* How sobering is this for you?
19. How long will it take to review every careless word you've ever spoken?

20. How are we, then, to speak? What are we to speak?
21. Mark says, "Words matter, not just because they impact others, but they expose what is really going on on the inside." Explain.
22. Is this license for you to become the "heart sleuth" for your spouse and your children and your associates? Why [absolutely] NOT? (How does the principle of the beam and the speck apply here?)

Pastor suggests, "Listen to yourself speak, and assess. Is there crudeness, crude jests coming out? Gossip? Deceit? That is a reflection of inner symptoms going on in your heart that should be addressed." He says, "This is not a moment for self-condemnation. It's the moment where repentance comes in. Repentance that changes what you say and how you say things. You say, 'Jesus I want to become more like you. Help me in this in this area of my weakness.'"

1. Take a moment and pray this through, especially if you feel it's time to act.
2. Review again 1 Corinthians 14: **1***Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, **especially** the gift of prophecy. ...***3***But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edification, encouragement, and comfort.* **4***The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.* Explain how this principle, eagerly sought, adds meaning to your words.
3. Whose words would you rather speak in any situation, yours or His?
4. How does the Spirit of God take over, when you earnestly seek His gifts?
5. When you begin to speak edification, exhortation and comfort to others at all times, what does this reveal **to you** about your own heart? What do others see?
6. Now look again at verse 37 above: **37***For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.* Explain this, now. How does this work?
7. Pastor says, "Your tongue is your spiritual barometer." How are your words are a measure of the weather ahead?
8. If your words are consistently bitter, critical, judgmental, what is the weather ahead? Why do you need a checkup and spiritual "geoengineering?"
9. What is the solution to the problem you create with your own tongue? How does your earnestly seeking to prophesy instead become the key for yourself and for others?

"We have to understand that heaven is among us, the Kingdom of Heaven is in our midst. We must know that Jesus is watching. And heaven is responding, revealing itself through the way we live on this earth." So what do we do? Pastor's exhortation:

- ⑥ **Walk humbly like a child.**
- ⑥ **Let humility lead and open opportunities for you.**
- ⑥ **Forgive generously and seek peace and pursue it.** Remember that this will always be reflected in equal measure in the heavenlies.
- ⑥ **Welcome the Holy Spirit and follow His lead.**
- ⑥ **Speak life.** Let your words reflect a heart that Heaven has transformed. Let your words be the evidence that Jesus is real.

"And, by the way, I love that humility is a part of this equation, because, guess what. When you mess up humility says, 'I messed up. I'm not reflecting Jesus very well.' You ask forgiveness of the Lord, and He's as quick to forgive as you are, humbling your heart. And the Holy Spirit is always there to bring you to a place where you can reflect. And you allow Him to."

Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. List the steps to “humbling yourself.” Be practical in making the list.
3. List what is involved in your inheritance when you inherit the earth. Pray this into your week.
4. Walk in obedience to what the Holy Spirit tells you. Write down what you notice.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Footnotes:

1. **On heavenly battles reflected on earth**—Pastor Mark began today's message observing that what happens on earth is a reflection of what is happening in heaven. The book of Daniel illustrates this principle brilliantly. In Daniel 10 Daniel has a remarkable, noteworthy encounter. *1In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict. And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. 2In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. 3I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. 4On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) 5I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. 6His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. 7And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. 8So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. 9Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. 10And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. 11And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. 12Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come **because of your words**. 13The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me **twenty-one days**, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, 14and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”* Several things to note...Daniel was troubled by something, and sought wisdom through prayer, fasting for twenty-one days before the answer came through the words of the angel. But, notice the heavenly conflict began the moment Daniel set out to pray on the first day, and took twenty-one days to resolve. This is why we are admonished to pray without ceasing. Our prayers clearly move heaven from the moment we utter them until the response arrives.
2. **On God protecting the humble**—This is just an important principle, not to be forgotten. God's eye is on the sparrow. He says, “Touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm,” in the Old Testament and again in the New. Read this, and

tell me who God's anointed are, and why we should take care in what we do:

Matthew 18: [6](#) *But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.* [7](#) *Woe to the world for the causes of sin. These stumbling blocks must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!* [8](#) *If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than to have two hands and two feet and be thrown into the eternal fire.* [9](#) *And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.* When one harms a child at any age, what is the impact on that society's future? What was the impact on Egypt, when Pharaoh acted against a generation of children?

3. **On Greek tenses and binding and loosing on earth and in heaven**—Look again at this verse, Matthew 18: [18](#) *Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.* This verse is most interesting for the Greek tenses used in each clause. Often, the verb in the result clause is translated as it is here, in the future passive, will be bound/loosed, giving the idea that your action, binding and loosing on earth, precedes and maybe even causes the heavenly binding and loosing that follows. Not so in Greek. The Greek verb tense in both result clause forms is future indicative middle voice, “shall already have been bound/loosed,” as if the binding and loosing happened in heaven before you spoke. Your speaking is a reflection of what is already heavenly reality. The verb tense in the proposal clause is aorist subjunctive active, following the proposition “If”. This suggests that Jesus is actually telling us, “Whatever it is, if you bind it on earth...it will already have been bound in heaven.” There will come a time, according to this, where your own prayer gets answered before you can complete speaking the prayer on earth. This is the degree of cooperation we should anticipate.
4. **On Beelzebub**—The Pharisees made the fatal error of ascribing Jesus' work to a spirit they named *Beelzebub/Beelzebul* depending on the manuscript. This is a transliteration of the Hebrew name [Ba'al Zbuwb](#), or, the dung god, lord of the flies (flies being his demonic minions), a common name for Satan in that day. The Pharisees were desperate to ascribe a “scientific” explanation to Messiah's inexplicable works, that they had never ever dreamed of anyone doing. Jesus' sobering warning was a harbinger of their own days ahead.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Daniel 10:1-14
Tuesday: Matthew 18:1-5
Wednesday: Matthew 18:6-9
Thursday: 2 Corinthians 5:14-19
Friday: Ephesians 2:8-10
Saturday: John 15:4-8
Sunday: Matthew 12:25-28

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.