

How to Handle Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:51-52.

B. Jesus compared the disciples to scribes, which is startling because they were the enemies of Jesus.

II. Jesus was telling His disciples that it is the business of Christians to learn to live and how to cope with life.

A. The scribes began ministry as an interpretive help in Ezra.

B. The disciples were like scribes in that they were trained to teach the secrets of God to man.

C. God has not called us merely to go to heaven—He has called us to learn how to live and be healed.

D. As non-Christians look at our lives, they ought to be able to see the healing take place.

E. Christianity is not just about doctrine—it is about demonstrating a life.

F. When you become a Christian, you are introduced into a process.

III. The beginning of this new life is understanding.

A. Jesus came to give us an understanding.

B. The gospel reveals reality as it really is.

C. The disciples had a shallow understanding of what Jesus meant just as we do.

IV. What else is necessary for a true understanding.

A. New and old things must be put together.

B. Life is made up of new things—that is, new experiences.

C. There are also old abiding things like human nature, the nature of God, relationships, etc.

D. The difficult task is bringing the old and new together.

E. How the old relates to the new.

1. The old solves the problem of the new when parents teach their children.

2. The old solves the problem of the new in marriage relationship when a husband begins to open up and a wife stops manipulating.

3. The old solves the problem of the new when we first look to ourselves in quarrels.

4. Fear is the answer to faith.

F. The world must see this healing taking place in our midst.

Application questions:

1. Why is the demonstration of the life so important to teaching the secrets of God to man?

2. How is the gospel central to understanding new life?

3. What other ways do you see the “old” solving problems of the “new” today?
