

August 16, 2020
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday August 16, 2020. The Gospel project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV Volume 8; Number 4; Summer 2020; Session 3; “Jesus Feeds A Multitude”.

Opening Joke:

What part of a meal makes you the most sleepy? The nap-kin.

Disclaimer:

I am not seminary trained. Other than being a Christian, I do not claim any special relationship with God. Therefore, feel free to disagree with anything and everything I write/say.

Opening Prayer:

In Class: Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

On WEB site: Lord Father Almighty, our normal lives have changed, but not our reliance on You for all things. Help us give you our thanks, our hearts, our love. Amen

The Lesson:

Please read the Gospel of John chapter 6.

Questions for thought:

Why were the crowds following Jesus?

John 6:2 says, “Because they saw the signs which He (Jesus) was performing on those who were sick.”

John 6:26 says, “Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.”

Our Study Guide on page 104 in the first paragraph after the Bible quote, the first sentence says, “Jesus’ fame and popularity were growing every day as crowds flocked to see Him heal the sick.”

The Study Guide continues on page 109 the second to last complete paragraph in the second and third sentences, “But Jesus knew why they were looking for Him: They had gotten a free lunch the day before and were looking to keep that benefit going. They were following Jesus because of what He gave them.”

Questions for thought

Does this mean the crowds realized Jesus was something special?

Could the crowds have been following Jesus simply because they knew Jesus could do things for them?

Continued questions for thought:

If they were following Jesus simply because they realized He could do things for them, is that a selfish, self-serving reason?

Is it wrong to follow Jesus only because He can do something for you?

Why do Christians follow Jesus today?

Do Christians follow Jesus only because they realize that Jesus can lead them to a right relationship with God, resulting in eternal life?

If a Christian follows Jesus just because He can lead them to a right relationship with God, eternal life, is that a selfish, self-serving reason?

John 6:29 says, “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent”.”

John 6:35 says, “Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst”.”

John 6:40 says (Jesus speaking), “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:47 & 48 says (Jesus speaking), “Truly, Truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.”

Ephesians 1:4 says “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”

Acts 2:23 says “This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13 says “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”

Questions for thought:

If: Believing in Jesus is the “work of God”,

If: Jesus is the “bread of Life”,

If: Christians were in Jesus “before the foundation of the world”,

If: Christians were chosen “from the beginning for salvation”,

Is it wrong to follow Jesus only because He can lead Christians to eternal life, a right relationship with God?

Is such an act of following Jesus simply because of what He can do for you, selfish and self-serving or is such an act pleasing to God?

Is it enough that, because it was God’s plan from the beginning; it is the way God himself chose to proceed, following Jesus will result in eternal life?

By simply following Jesus, can you earn heaven?

Wait! Does the love of God come into play?

Isaiah 64:4 reads “For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 says “But just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

The same verse in the New International Version reads “For as it is written, no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived of what God has prepared for those that love Him.”

In the New American Standard Bible 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 reads “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

The Gospel of John 14:15 simply says “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

The letter 1 John 4:19 reads “We love, because He first loved us.”

Questions for thought

Is heaven prepared only for those that love God?

Notice 1 Cor 13:2 says in part, “If I have all faith, but do not have love, I am nothing.”

Does this indicate that the love of God is more important than:

*Acknowledgement that He (God) exists?

*That announcing Jesus Christ is Lord?

*Than accepting Jesus Christ as a propitiation (the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of someone or something) for sins?

*Than having faith that Jesus Christ died, rose again, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Does John 14:15 indicate that if we love God the rest will naturally follow?

Why should Christians love God? (Because He first loved us).

As Christians, if the love of God grows does faith in God grow?

The Gospel of John 6:40 says “Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven”.”

John 6:60 says “Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?””

John 6:66 says “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.”

Questions for thought

For what reason; why weren't they walking with Him anymore?

Why would anybody stop following somebody who was healing the sick and feeding thousands?

Did Jesus offend people by claiming to be the Son of the Father, God Most High?

What would happen if a human form walked into Christ Chapel today claiming to be the Son of God?

What would Christ Chapel demand as proof that someone is the Son of God, the Messiah?

Through what do people follow Christ today? (Faith).

The end of John 6:10 says, “So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.” Our Study Guide says on page 105 the first paragraph after the Bible quote the end of the fifth sentence, “ the number of men who were in the crowd was five thousand, not counting women and children.”

Questions for thought

How did Jesus attract crowds over 2,000 years ago?

How does Jesus attract people today?

By attracting crowds of over 5,000 people or more, we know from the Bible, Jesus had the attention of Hebrew leaders.

John 6:15 says “So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.”

Questions for thought

Who was intending to come and take Jesus by force to make Him king?

By attracting 5,000 or more during the days Jesus walked on the earth, who else besides the Hebrews would have turned their attention to Jesus? (Romans).

Did Jesus ever do or say anything against Rome?

Where in the Bible did Jesus encourage a revolt against Rome?

The Jews brought Jesus before whom to be put to death?

Who was it that actually nailed Jesus to the cross?

Now, remembering that Christians follow Jesus because they realize that Jesus is the only way to a right relationship with God, who actually nailed Jesus to the cross?

We now have a chance to go together next door to thank God for His love, for our faith in Him, for His wisdom, for His eternal plan that was put into place from the beginning. Let us do so remembering the heavy price paid for us.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Huth