

September 20, 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 any body with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday Sept. 20, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 9, Number 1; Fall 2020; Jesus Teaches Difficult Truths.

Opening Joke:

What's the best food to eat before a workout? Mussels.

Opening Prayer:

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

On WEB site: Lord God Almighty, You are so far above your created beings that we struggle to understand Your wisdom. Father we trust in You and Your plan for eternity. We long for Your love; the mercy and grace found only in Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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.

The Lesson:

It is now 9:00 A.M. About 1/5 or 20% of the day is gone, never to be recovered. Most likely during that 20% you reluctantly got *yourself* out of bed, washed *yourself*, dressed *yourself*, cooked for *yourself*, ate because *you* were hungry, cleaned up after *yourself*, and then drove *yourself* to church.

Questions for thought:

(Read the first group of questions quickly, and then slowly on the second group).

Wouldn't it have felt great just to sleep in today?

Why didn't you just sleep in today?

What are you doing in church today?

Are you here just to visit old friends?

Are you here just because you like the music, the songs?

Are you here simply because going to church on Sunday mornings is something you've done all your life?

Or are you here because you realize you are only human?

Are you here looking for something greater than yourself?

Are you here to save yourself from eternal damnation?

Are you here to worship God?

Are you here to learn more about Jesus?

Be careful for what you aim.

The paragraphs of the Study Guide on page 29 read,
“Often people who are quite unfamiliar with Christianity still admire Jesus and even wish more Christians were like Jesus, at least as they understand Him. But when they encounter what Jesus actually said, they find He is not who they thought He was. The Jesus they thought they admired said some very hard things. He wasn’t all “peace, love, and good vibes.” He didn’t go around just teaching everybody to be nice to each other. (For one thing, He never would have been crucified if *that* were His major message). No, the real Jesus was, and is, polarizing.

Jesus’ words and actions offended people, not because He lived to give offense but because He lived to center everything and everyone on Himself. The claims Jesus made of *His* self-centrality are an assault upon the self-centeredness of sinners like you and me.”

Repeat: “The claims Jesus made of *His* self-centrality are an assault upon the self-centeredness of sinners like you and me.”

Questions for thought:

Is Jesus Christ assaulting you?

In order to be a follower of Christ, what does He demand of you?

Does Christ demand that you change your way of thinking?

Does Jesus Christ demand that He be the center of your life?

Does the demand of Jesus Christ that He be the center of your life offend people, causing them to reject you and Christ?

The Study Guide on page 34, the last 2 complete paragraphs say in part,
“Jesus cautioned His hearers not merely to work for food that will pass away but to pursue the bread of eternal life – Himself. But the cares of the world swallow us whole each day. The pressures and priorities of our ordinary lives crowd out our attention to God and His word. We spend most of our lives focused on things that ultimately won’t matter. They may be important. They may be necessary. But if they are the heart of our pursuit of meaning – then we miss out on investing in things that last. Nobody on their deathbed wishes they’d spent more time chasing more money, bigger stuff, and other temporary cares.

The truth is eternity impacts every day. Each moment is weighed with the tremendous reality of God and His Glory”.

In the Bible the end of the book of Ecclesiastes 12:13 & 14 read,
“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

Questions for thought:

How many ways are there to avoid God's judgment?

How can Christians avoid God's judgment?

Can a person who rejects Jesus Christ avoid God's judgment?

Ephesians 1:4 reads, "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 reads, "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 reads, "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:

How did the idea of salvation through Jesus Christ come about? (Predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God).

When was God's plan devised? (From the beginning, before the foundation of the world).

Using the Bible translation of your choice read John 6:48 – 58.

Questions for thought:

Before He went to the cross, Jesus Christ instructed that He be remembered by what act? Is communion a symbolic remembering of a particular part of the life of Jesus? If so, which part?

Therefore, how important is the act of communion?

Is communion to be done lightly without forethought?

The Study Guide on page 30, the paragraph following the Bible quote the third and fourth sentences say in part, "He (Jesus) insisted that people must find their spiritual sustenance in Him as the fulfillment of all God's promises. Manna fed the body for the Jews in the wilderness, but Jesus – the Bread of life – feeds body and soul for eternity. Blood represented the life of an animal or a person, so it was prohibited for eating and drinking, but Jesus – the Lamb of God – poured out His blood for our forgiveness and our eternal life."

The Study Guide continues on page 31, the paragraph following the Bible quote, "Many people who were following Jesus had a hard time with His teaching that centered the hope of salvation on Himself. They struggled to believe Him, and Jesus explained why: No one comes to Jesus in faith unless the Father grants the ability to do so through the Holy Spirit. Without new birth in the Spirit (John 3:5-8), there is no salvation because the Holy Spirit is the One who convicts us of sin, leads us to Jesus in faith, and

regenerates our hearts. If you want eternal life, you must believe in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is integral for that step of faith”.

In the last complete paragraph, on page 31 the Study Guide says, “Sometimes people may think they were saved because they knew more than others or were morally superior. But the reality is that not one bit of our supposed “righteousness” is any advantage at all. For any of us to experience the new birth, whether we were raised in church or raised to stay away from it, whether we have been a moralistic older brother or a wild prodigal, we need the radical intervention of heaven. We need to be given the gift of faith unto eternal life, and this gift is pure grace from God, not based on our works.”

We now have the opportunity to go next door and thank God for His mercy and grace; to thank God for the life; death, burial, and resurrection of His only begotten Son. Let us do so with hearts of hope.

Thank you for allowing me to worship God with you.

Joe Huth