

December 13, 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, December 13, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 10, Number 2; Winter 2020-21; Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Quote from C.S. Lewis:

When all the suns and nebulae have passed away, each one of you will still be alive.

Opening Prayer:

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

On WEB site: Lord Father Almighty, those studying Your word, seeking truth, do not want to be left in the life of a sinner. We look to You for guidance, salvation, for true meaningful life. Please send the presence, the light of Your Holy Spirit into our hearts. Wanting our lives to be changed by You, we put our full trust in You through Jesus Christ. Through Him only do we dare to approach You. 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:

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read Acts 3:1-10.

Questions for thought:

Before Peter told the beggar to “look at us” (Peter and John, vs. 4), could it be that the beggar was just going through the steps of what he did every day, not really into his work, not really paying attention, not really caring, without hope in a future?

When Peter told the beggar “Look at us”, was he trying to get the beggars attention, to attempt to say to the beggar you are about to receive something you will never forget?

Though Peter did not have silver or gold, when Peter said in vs. 6 “What I do have I give to you,” could that have been hope?

Why did Peter call upon the name of Jesus?

By offering people salvation through His blood, does Jesus offer hope to sinners today?

Hope in what?

Does Jesus offer the hope of forgiveness of sins?

Does Jesus offer the hope of an eternal life in heaven with the Lord God Almighty?

Is there any other source available to receive this kind of hope other than Jesus?

Should people today be joyful over this hope or just accept it without really caring?

Continued questions for thought:

Should people today want to share this hope with other people, or keep it to themselves?

Did Peter actually have to touch the beggar for the beggar to be healed?

In the Bible, is there anything that indicates the beggar had any amount or type of faith before the healing?

Upon being healed what is the first action the beggar took?

Upon receiving salvation through Jesus Christ what should Christians do today?

After the healing, could bystanders see the difference in the beggar?

Today, should bystanders see a difference in someone who has received forgiveness for their sins?

The Study Guide on page 21, the first paragraph after the Bible quote says:

Imagine being this man, unable to walk from birth and forced to beg for money from those who walked by. Would you wonder if God were punishing you? Would you have any hope of improving your circumstances? Day after day, you would expect ridicule and pity and hope only for someone's generosity with silver and gold. But Peter and John encountered the man with something far better to give – healing in Jesus' name.

The Study Guide continues on page 25, the last paragraph, the last two sentences:

We certainly aren't guaranteed to be able to heal every person we encounter. But we can follow the lead of Peter and John – having eyes to see those who are hurting and pointing them to Jesus.

Using the Bible of your choice, read Acts 3:11-26.

Questions for thought:

After being healed how close did the beggar stay to Peter and John? (Clung to them, Acts 3:11)

When a crowd formed, Peter was adamant about giving the credit for the healing to whom? (Jesus, Acts 3:12-16)

In speaking of the death of Jesus, Peter said the Hebrew people and their rulers acted through what? (Ignorance, Acts 3:17)

Did Peter claim that God announced beforehand, before the crucifixion, that the Messiah would suffer? (Yes, Acts 3:18)

Did the birth, life, death, and resurrection fulfill all Old Testament scripture about the Messiah?

Therefore, how should Christians today feel about God keeping His word towards them?

Therefore, what should sinners do today in order to form a right relationship with God?

The Study Guide says on page 22, the paragraph just after the Bible quote:

Peter and John were clear with the man who was lame that his healing came in Jesus' name. Here they made the same point with the gathering crowd. The disciples did not see themselves as special but as vessels through whom God was working. They had no power of their own but called upon the name of Jesus to heal a man, and the result was a powerful display of Jesus' authority on earth. Through faith in this Jesus, the man was healed. So Peter and John's point is clear – give glory to Jesus!

It continues on page 26, the first two and the last paragraph:

If we were in Peter and John's situation, the mediators of Jesus' awesome power, we might have been tempted to take credit for something as amazing as a miraculous healing. If we can't even give God credit for the small things, how much more might we be tempted to take credit for the big ones, especially the big ones that would make us look powerful or wise or even super-holy!

As Christians, we are sometimes the most immune to the gospel's potency. We've heard it so many times that it seems like white noise. When God speaks to us, we simply aren't prepared to listen to Him. May we of all people know the Scriptures well so that we might be able to listen to the Holy Spirit and respond to His commands.

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read Acts 4:1-3.

Questions for thought:

According to Acts 4:4, the actions and messages done by Peter and John previously in Acts Chapter 3 resulted in about how many men believing that Jesus was/is the Messiah? (About 5,000)

Because of this, what did the priests, captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees do to Peter and John? (Put them in jail, Acts 4:1-3)

Throughout history, has anyone actually been successful in keeping the word of God from being spread?

In Acts 4:6, read the list of people who were present during the questioning of Peter and John. Who were Annas and Caiaphas? (Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest during the trial and execution of Jesus, John 18:13, John 11:49-50)

Would the name of Jesus and all that He had done be familiar to Annas and Caiaphas?

Did Annas and Caiaphas have trouble with Jesus before?

During the questioning of Peter and John, would Annas and Caiaphas have realized they were having trouble with Jesus again?

Today, do Christians have trouble with Jesus?

How about when a Christian sins?

Continued questions for thought:

Who or what filled Peter during his defense? (The Holy Spirit, Acts 4:8)

During his defense, to who or what did Peter give credit for the healing? (Jesus, Acts 4:10)

How important is it today for Christians to give Jesus credit for their healing from sin, for fixing their relationship with God Almighty?

Is there any way else to salvation? (No Acts 4:12)

Did the accusers have any answer when Peter and John used the name of Jesus?

In verses 16 and 17, is it possible that the accusers feared the crowd just as when Jesus was put on trial? (Yes, Acts 4:16, Acts 4:21)

Are some of these accusers of Peter and John the same people who accused Jesus? (Yes, Acts 4:6)

Had the accusers learned anything?

Can anything or anyone defeat Jesus?

When the accusers told Peter and John not to speak of Jesus anymore, what did Peter and John do? (Praised God more, Acts 4:21-31)

In Daniel 6:10, what did Daniel do when he was told not to worship God? (Opened his window so everyone could see, knelt, prayed, and gave thanks to God 3 times a day)

Today, should Christians worship God in secret?

The Study Guide on page 27, the second paragraph says:

Though the authorities might have rejected Jesus as their Messiah, they could not accuse Peter and John of any wrongdoing. They threatened Peter and John to knock off the evangelism stuff, but this would not sway the disciples. They expected persecution – as we should - but they did not allow persecution to squash their desire to fulfill their mission.

We now have the opportunity to go next door to encourage one another to openly face the world and worship God. Like Daniel, let us do so with thanksgiving in our hearts.

Thank you for allowing me to worship God with you today.

Joe Huth