

January 17, 2021
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, January 17, 2021. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 10, Number 2; Winter 2020-21; Trusting in Christ in Life and Death.

A Billy Graham Quote:

I believe we should pray that God will take possession of our lives totally and completely. We should pray that we will be emptied of self – self-love, self-will, self-ambition – and be placed completely at His disposal.

Opening Prayer:

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

On WEB site: Lord God Father Almighty, we thank you for the birth, death, and resurrection of your only begotten son Jesus. We acknowledge Him as the Christ; the Messiah. We realize that it is only through the mercy and grace available through Jesus that we can approach you. Through Jesus we have hope and trust that our sins are forgiven. Thank You for your love. 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.

Definitions:

Hellenistic Jew - The Hellenistic Jews are first mentioned in the Bible in Acts 6:1: “In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.” The believing Jews are here divided into two groups. There were those who had remained in Judea, near Jerusalem, who used the Hebrew language, and who were appropriately called “Hebrews.” The other group consisted of those who were scattered among the Gentiles, who spoke the Greek language, and who used the Greek translation of the Old Testament, called the Septuagint. These were called “Hellenists,” from a word meaning “Greek” or “Greek-speaking.” To “Hellenize” is to adopt Greek culture and ideas. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Hellenistic-Jews.html>

The Lesson:

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read Acts 6.

Questions for thought:

According to verse 1, widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food, specifically Hellenistic Jews. Did this constitute discrimination by language or place of origin?

Was this discrimination being done despite the presence of the apostles?

Could such a thing happen today?

Just how quickly and in how many ways can a congregation turn from God?

Did Satan waste any time in attacking the church?

Why was it not desirable for the apostles to attend to the problem themselves?

In verse 4, to what did the apostles need to devote their time? (Prayer and to the ministry of the Word)

Today, should all Christians expect to have the same talents?

Therefore, should each individual honestly identify their own talents and use those talents to the best of their ability to serve God?

May the Lord reveal to an individual that they have talents they never knew they had?

Therefore, should an individual be tested or developed every once in a while to see if all their talents have been identified?

Within the church, is one individual's talent more important than the next individual's talent?

Who is more important, the missionary or the people that give the where-with-all for the missionary to function?

Therefore, should all Christians work together in order to achieve a common goal?

What is that goal?

In Acts 6:3 when a problem arose within the congregation, what characteristics were suggested that the people selected to address the problem have? (Good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom)

Are these spiritual gifts?

Are these the type of attributes necessary to solve every single type of problem that might come up in a congregation?

In verse 6, after certain people were selected to address a certain problem and brought before the apostles, what did they do? (Prayed)

In verse 6, after praying what did they do next? (Laid their hands on them)

In verse 7, did the word of God keep spreading? (Yes)

In verse 8, who was full of grace and power, performing great wonders and signs among the people? (Stephen)

Was Stephen an apostle? (No)

Today, can God use an ordinary disciple to do great things or does one have to be a pastor or missionary to do great things?

In verse 9, did people rise up and argue with Stephen apparently about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? (Yes)

Today, if you mention Jesus will some people argue with you?

People were unable to cope with what Stephen was saying because Stephen was speaking with what? (Wisdom and the Spirit, v. 10)

According to verse 11, the people who accused Stephen of blasphemy against Moses and God induced other to say the same things – how? (Secretly)

Did the people against Stephen put up fake witness? (Yes, v. 13)

Does the story sound familiar?

Before the Council, Stephen's face appeared to be what? (The face of an angel, v. 15)

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read Acts 7. NOTE: if time is of concern, point out that in verse 1-50, Stephen recounted the history of the Hebrew people and just read Acts 7:51-60.

Questions for thought:

Acts 7:51 indicates it is important to be circumcised in what? (The heart)

Acts 7:51 also indicates that evil people resist whom? (The Holy Spirit)

According to Acts 7:52, what happened to those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One? (Killed)

In verse 53, Stephen says those that received the law did not what? (Keep the law)

The people listening to Stephen began gnashing their teeth at him, why? (They were cut to the quick)

According to verse 55 during his punishment and death, Stephen was filled with what? (The Holy Spirit)

During the stoning of Stephen, those doing the stoning laid their robes at the feet of whom? (Saul, v. 58)

In verses 59 and 60 as he was being stoned, Stephen asked two things of the Lord God.

What were they? (Receive my spirit and do not hold this sin against them)

Was Stephen concerned about his earthly life?

Was Stephen concerned about the spiritual lives of those that stoned him?

Should Christians today have Stephen's attitude of concern for the spiritual life of others more than their own earthly life?

No matter what type of persecution it was, have you ever prayed for those persecuting you because of your Christianity?

We now have the opportunity to go next door, worship God, asking for a heart like Stephen's when we suffer persecution for Jesus. Let us do so remembering the death and suffering of Jesus on the cross.

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

Joe Huth