



Discussion Guide

Sermon Synopsis

There are many commitments that we may make in life, but there is none of greater importance than the commitment we make to Christ. Many claim to be committed to Jesus, but if we honestly evaluate the time we spend worshiping Him, talking to Him, learning from Him, and serving Him, we may find that our commitment isn't as strong as we thought. In this sermon, we see that many religious leaders in Jesus' day thought they were committed and close to God, but Jesus' words revealed the truth of where they stood. I pray today that we each hear these words of Christ and examine our own lives to make sure that we are truly committed to Him. If we want to accurately examine our belief in Jesus, we need to simply evaluate one primary area – our commitment and obedience to His Word.

Exercising faith in Jesus, the Son of God, is essential for salvation. You cannot have salvation and not have faith in Him. The Puritan theologian, John Owen, wrote this regarding saving faith: "Believing in Jesus means that we really trust Him, honor Him, and respect Him deeply. Our forever happiness ultimately depends on us doing these things with all our heart, more than anything else." As a group, read [Ephesians 2:1-10](#). **If faith in the Son of God is the essential key to salvation, as John Owen suggests and Ephesians 2:1-10 reinforces, how should this understanding of faith as trust, honor, and deep respect for Jesus shape our daily actions and decisions?**

Trusting, honoring, and respecting Jesus are a few concrete ways we exercise faith in Him. We trust that His righteousness is enough. We honor Him by looking away from our own works, giving all our sin to Him, and taking His perfect righteousness as our own. We respect Him by obeying His commands. Jesus said, in John 14:15, "*If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.*" We might ask, "What are His commands?" As a group, read [Matthew 22:36-40](#). Maybe you trust Christ's righteousness. Maybe you even honor him! **But how do we measure ourselves against this "greatest commandment" and how should we respond if we find that we fall short?**

When we self-reflect and examine ourselves in light of the ten commandments and in light of Christ's summary of them (Matthew 22:36-40), we are immediately confronted with the reality that we just aren't as "put together Christians" as we'd like to think we are. We're messed up, unholy, and less than what Christ desires us to be in and of ourselves. As a group, read [Hebrews 12:1-8](#). This text tells us that Jesus is the "author and perfecter of our faith". **What does verse two tell us to do and why?**

March 17, 2024

John 8:30-47

One Liner of the Week

"To be a follower of Christ we must move beyond the mere mental facts of who Jesus is, and the mere emotions that make us feel good, and come to the point where we deliberately place our faith in Him."

Food for the Soul

M - Psalm 119:1-40

T - Psalm 119:41-80

W - Psalm 119:81-120

T - Psalm 119:121-176

F - Matthew 24:1-31

S - Matthew 24:32-25:13

S - Matthew 25:14-46