



Discussion Guide

Sermon Synopsis

There are many ways that we might describe the personal behavior of a disciple of Jesus, but as we look at the Scriptures, we see that the conduct of a disciple is not merely based upon moral principles but upon a heavenly example. To discover how we should conduct our lives today, we simply need to study the life of Christ and consider what was important to Him? What did He model for us? What were the things that He did and how did He do them? The more closely we study Him, the more we will discern what He is calling us to do today. We invite you to listen to this message to be encouraged and challenged to submit to the Lord so that you may become more like Him today.

April 7, 2024

John 13:1-17

One Liner of the Week

“The more closely we study Him (Jesus), the more we will discern what our own conduct should be today.

Food for the Soul

M: Philippians 1:21-27

T: Philippians 2:1-11

W: Philippians 2:12-18

T: 1 Peter 4:1-11

F: 1 Peter 5:1-11

S: Romans 12:1-8

S: Romans 12:9-21

I'm a fan of the Puritans. The Puritans are a broad group of theologians and Pastors primarily from 17th century Europe and especially England. One reason I appreciate them so much is their wonderful ability to distill complex talking points in to succinct and sharp truth statements. One such statement that always remains with me is this: ***You must look to Christ.*** It's easy today to seek answers and guidance. We have ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google, the list goes on and on. It's easy to get “answers”. But, as good as these tools are, there is the Source of truth that should be sought above all others by all people and especially Christians. As a group, read *John 14*. **Discuss the chapter, especially verse 6, considering the statement “You must look to Christ”. Why?**

As we continue in John 14, Jesus declares that to know Him is to know the Father. We can sympathize with the dullness of the disciples as they struggle to understand the full implication of Christ's words. In verse 8, a puzzled Phillip asks, “*Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.*” Our Lord's next statement is monumental: “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” Re-read verses 8-11 as a group and focus your discussion very stiffly upon verse 9. **How do Christ's words cause us to re-evaluate who we understand Him to be? Does this reinforce the great importance of “looking unto Christ”?**

The implications of verses 8-11 are massive as I hope you can see. Christ Jesus is God. He is co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in splendor, power, and authority. So equal is Christ Jesus with the other two persons of the Holy Trinity that we may freely say that the Ten Commandments are Christ's very own Ten Commandments. Have someone in the group read verse 15 and verse 24 slowly and out loud. **What is the proof, according to John 14, that someone loves Jesus (that they are truly saved)?** “The question may be asked then, what exactly must I do in order to obey the commands of Jesus?” **Answer: They must “look to Christ”, “look to Jesus” by spending time in his word, both Old and New Testament, and especially in the Gospels where we learn explicitly about what He says and does. As He has said and done, so too should we say and do.** We must follow the example of Christ and, in so doing, show our love for Him!

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord cause His face to shine on you, and be gracious to you. The Lord life up His face to you, and give you peace