Uniquely Jesus: The Story Continues week of November 12, 17

This We Do Together, Acts 2:41-47

Life Group Discussion Questions

Every one of us has priorities that we live by. But non-essentials somehow seem to find a way to creep into our lives. And they usually do so, subtly and slowly.

We don’t even notice it, until our life starts to feel like we are on a treadmill, and we wonder how we got to this place, where it seems, all we do is run from one thing to another.

**Talk with one another about any non-essentials that have or are currently crowding your life. What did you do or what will you do about them?**

**Read Acts 2:42-47.**

**What does it mean to devote one’s self to something?**

The priority of the apostles’ teaching.

The apostles, each day, quoted from the OT Scriptures, and then made clear, in their teaching, how the Scriptures spoke of Jesus – his rejection, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection from the dead.

**Interact with Tim Keller’s quote regarding Jesus, the hero of the Old Testament.**

“Jesus is the true and better Adam who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed (credited, freely given) to us.

Jesus is the true and better Abel who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for our acquittal.

Jesus is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave the comfortable and the familiar, in order to create a new people of God.

Jesus is the true and better Isaac who was not just offered up by his father on mount Moriah, but was truly sacrificed for us. God said to Abraham, “I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love.” Now we can look at God taking his son up the mountain and sacrificing him and say, “Now we know that you love us because you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love.”

Jesus is the true and better Jacob who wrestled and took the blow of justice we deserved, so we, like Jacob, only receive the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.

Jesus is the true and better Joseph who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them.

Jesus is the true and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and mediates a new covenant.

Jesus is the true and better Job, the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for and saves his foolish friends.

Jesus is the true and better David whose victory becomes his people’s victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves.

Jesus is the true and better Esther who didn’t just risk her life to save her people, but who gave his life to save his people.

Jesus is the true and better Jonah who was cast out into the storm so that we could be brought in.

Jesus is the real Passover Lamb, innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us. He’s the true temple, the true prophet, the true priest, the true king, the true sacrifice, the true light, the true bread.

Peter when he preached had said about Jesus in v.22, that he *“was a man accredited by God…by miracles, wonders and signs, which God [had done] among [the people] through him…”* As the apostles daily taught, God did the same with them. Look again at v.43 - *…many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.* The power of the Lord was present with them.

**In what ways does God confirm his word today?**

Romans 8:7 tells us that the human mind is *“hostile to God.”* For some of us, it may have been subtle; for others more overt, but every person is born with an anti-God mindset.

**Does this anti-God mindset persist in the follower of Jesus? Explain.**

Romans 12:2 says, *“we are transformed by the renewing of our mind…”*

Colossians 3:16 says, *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

**What is the word of Christ?**

This word makes known… God’s thoughts and ways.

This word makes sense… of us as human beings and the world in which we live.

This word tells the story… of the extraordinary length which God went to, in order to rescue us from our enslavement to sin and our bondage to death.

This word reveals the truth… of how life is best lived.

This word speaks in advance… of how history will end, and a new age will begin.

**What aspect of the word of Christ leaves you most grateful? In awe? Disturbed?**

God’s word is living and active. His word has the power to penetrate our soul. It convicts us where our thoughts and attitudes are not aligned with what God says

is good and right. God’s word uncovers, and exposes lies we have believed. It shines light into our hearts, so we can see clearly. It puts before us *“very great and precious promises,”* that enable us to *“become partakers of the divine nature,”*and to escape *“from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”* 2 Peter 1:4

It is important that we read and think upon Scripture…on our own. Whenever and however it happens for each of us, we must give the Holy Spirit material to work with. The word of Christ can’t fill your life; it can’t dwell in you, if you don’t develop the habit of reading it.

**Are you satisfied with your current reading and study of Scripture? Explain.**

Recommended Bible reading app.



Erwin McManus says, *“If the Bible doesn’t change your life, it is not being engaged.”* Unstoppable, p.85.

**Do you agree? Why? Why not? How is the Bible currently changing your life?**

To follow Jesus is to be a life-long learner. To be a part of his church is to belong to a movement, a community of people who are life-long learners.

**In what way does your life evidence that you are a life-long learner?**

**What is your next step based on this passage?**