

Bible Study, Series 2, week 10

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read: Genesis 39: 1-23

1. Was it worth the trouble for Joseph to be so faithful to his principles towards God? (Verse 6b-20) Would it not have been better for him to give in? Motivate.
2. Many young people today say: Joseph we unnecessarily conscientious - something like that is not a sin. What would your answer be? What would have been the consequences if he gave in?
3. The most important things that are being said about Joseph can be found in verse 2, 3, 21 and 23. What is the big secret of his life of victory if you read these verses together with verse 9?

Day: 2

Read: Daniel 1: 1-21

1. Verse 1. Babylon in the Bible stands for the anti-Christian forces while Jerusalem stands for the city of God, His people and His church. Therefore this chapter is a chapter about the battle we are still involved in today.
2. Verse 2. The Heathen are saying something with their deeds: our god is mightier than the God of Israel. Our losses are a bad reflection on the honor of God. Fortunately our of verse 2a we know that God Rules.
3. Verse 3-5. The best love strategy of Satan: he wants to get the best of the youth in his power. He does not lock them up in a concentration camp but he gives them a bursary for study in the university of Babylon and food from the king's table. Why?
4. Verse 6-7. Why does he give them new names? (The-el in Daniel and in Mishael and the-ah in Hananiah and Azariah stands for Names of God: there names are therefore declarations of their faith)
5. Verse 8-16: Why is Daniel it that is so different, is he simply trying to be difficult?
6. Verse 17-21. Was sticking to his principles so conscientiously worth the trouble? Have a look at verse 21 again and say what the big message of this chapter is for all of us, today?

Day: 3

Read: 2 Timothy 4: 1-18

1. Verse 1-2: What is the argument Paul uses to encourage Timothy to persevere as a follower and servant of Christ? Have a look at verse 8 as well. Is it worth the trouble if you have a look at it?
2. Verse 3-4: What are the signs of the times we are living in as they are drawn here? Name them all. Take note of the encouragement for Timothy in verse 5 and the opposites of "they'll" in verse 4 and the "but you" in verse 5. Read Revelations 22; 11. What does it tell us? Do you see something of the polarization in today?
3. Verse 7: the past. Verse 8: the present. Verse: 9 the future. "God's applause" verse 8a, the word used here in Greek is "stefanos." Is it possible that Paul is thinking of Stephen here while he is waiting for his own death as a martyr? Read Acts 7: 58-60. What Paul saw that they must have spoken to him and must have played a role in his conversion. Was it worth it for Stephen to remain true to Jesus taking this into account?
4. Verse 10: Why did Demas stop being a follower of Christ? Read Mark 10: 30, Ephesians 1: 21 and 1 Timothy 4: 8. What is the choice Demas had that we have to make today as well?
5. Verse 16-18: Is a Christian ever alone? "The Master stood by" and "God's looking after me" (verse 17-18!) What is Paul saying here, was it worth the trouble for him to have remained true until the end, until death? What made it worth it for him? Does it make it worth it for us as well?

Day: 4

Read: Luke 18: 18-30

1. Verse 18: What is the big mistake this young man made? It is very clear from his question.
2. Verse 19-21: What is the mistake he makes even further? Take special note of verse 21 and 19b.
3. Verse 22-23: With this deed he is saying: "it is not worth it, the price is too high" meaning the price of being a disciple of Jesus is too high. Why? What does it tell us about the dangers of materialism? Read 1 John 2: 15-17. Afterward have a look at luke 19: 8 for the opposite disposition.
4. Is Jesus saying in verse 14- 27 that rich people cannot saved - or what is it He is trying to explain here?
5. Verse 29-30: Is it worth it to be a Christian? Formulate the answer this piece gives us in your own words.

Day: 5

Read: Revelations 2: 8-11

1. This is addressed "to the Angel of the church" (verse 8). It is the messenger, leader and teacher. Smyrna was a port city north of Ephesus. Roma the goddess of Rome as well as the Caesar Tiberius were worshiped there as gods. Many other idols were also worshipped there. Here there was idolatry at its worst. There Polycarpus, bishop of Smyrna, died a martyrs death in 155 A.C. at the age of 86. When they tried to force Him to deny Jesus he answered: "How can I deny my King that saved me?"

2. Verse 8b. Points to the writer of the letter. Read Revelations 1: 17-18
3. Verse 9. "Dire poverty--but I also see your wealth" (compare Revelations 3: 17.) Also have a look at 1 Peter 1: 7. What is more dangerous to the church: prosperity or prosecution? Why?
4. Verse 9b. Read Revelations 3: 9 and Romans 9: 6-8.
5. Verse 10. Encouragement to stay true during the prosecution for the gospel "-ten days" means a short time that has been set. God rules and He will not allow it to go on for longer than He intends. He will not allow it to continue for longer than He wants it to.
6. What encouragement do we find in verse 10-11? For verse 11b have a look at Revelations 20: 14-15 and 2 Timothy 4: 8. Is it worth it?

Day: 6

Read: Revelations 7: 9-17

1. John sees a vision of the triumphant church in heaven. What does verse 9-10 say about the church? Palm branches are a symbol of winning.
2. The big prosecution (verse 14a) Read John 16: 33.
3. What do the white clothes tell us? Have a look at verse 13-15 first. Take note of verse 15: "That's why they're standing before God's Throne. They serve him day and night in his Temple. The One on the Throne will pitch his tent there for them." Only one reason for the "that's why" Why are they there in glory?
4. How is their salvation described in verse 15-17? Make a list of all of them and try and find out what each means.
5. Are we going to be idle in heaven? Read verse 15a and Mathew 25: 21 and 23.

Jesus Himself once asked His disciples whether it is worth it to follow Him. The group study will pay attention to the two possible answers on this question and the reasons and consequences of each.

Group Bible Study

Read: John 6: 53-71

There were always big crowds following Jesus for the sensation. They also followed Him out of curiosity. People wanted to hear what He says. Read John 6: 22- 26. Verse 26 gives an insight into their shallow motifs.

Verse 66. These "disciples" were obviously not real followers of Jesus, they were no true believers. Now they started asking questions, is it really worth it following Him? Then they stopped following Him. Take note of verse 64a. "Because" They did not want to accept His words. Especially John 6: 41 and further expansions on it (verse 53-56) were an affront to them. They were looking for a worldly

"king" and kingdom. They were completely materialistic. Their minds were set on the world and not on the spiritual.

Verse 63. "The Spirit can make life" "Every word I've spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making"

Verse 67. Jesus asks them, and us, if it is worth following Him.

Verse 69. "You are the Holy One of God" The Messiah, the One whose coming was prophesied by the prophets.

1. Read verse 54a and 47 together and say what "eat and drink flesh and blood" means and what it reminds us of.
2. Why do they find these words hard, refusing to listen to it (verse 60) and therefore stop following Him? (Compare verse 60 and 66 with verse 68-69.)
3. Which two important truths, running parallel in the gospel and in the Bible do we find in verse 65 and verse 69. Have a look at John 6: 37 and 44 as well. Name them and say in your own words what they mean.
4. Discuss the following: "These people stopped following Jesus because His words were incomprehensible to them, they wanted to explain it with their minds and you cannot find God that way."
5. What does verse 63-64 teach us concerning this? Have a look at verse 64a, 69 as well as Mathew 18: 3. What is it that Jesus finds so appealing in little children and what He is looking for in us as well? That without which we cannot be saved?
6. In the light of the previous, give a simple definition of faith and faith if we read 1 John 5: 10.
7. Read verse 64 with verse 70-71. How is it possible that two people, like Peter and Judas, can enjoy the same spiritual favors (following Jesus and being close to Him for years) and then react so completely different to His message? Peter: look at verse 63-64 and Mathew 16: 15-17. Judas: John 12; 4-6 and 13: 2)
8. What is it that we are being warned against? Look at Isaiah 55: 2-3, Romans 1: 18 as well as Psalm 95: 7-8 and Acts 7: 37-39 and 51.