

Liberty Baptist Church Scripture Reflections

The Procedure of Love

Life Group Discussion
July 19, 2020

This Discussion Guide is prepared to help believers apply the truths of Scripture to life. As you prepare, make sure you have read the Scripture text and listened to the Sermon. If you missed the Sermon, go to www.experienceliberty.org and select the Sermon title listed above.

Sermon Bible Verses: **John 11**

*8 The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"
9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."*

Jesus was going back to a place where He had been threatened with death. That threat had come from his own people:

- What had Jesus done in Judea to warrant the threat of death?
- How many times have you been in a situation where your life was in jeopardy due your beliefs? Would you go to a place where your life would be threatened for the sake of the Gospel? Why or why not? Would you take your family?

Jesus was aware of the potential violence against Him, yet He went to Judea to raise Lazarus anyway.

- What spiritual character traits drives someone to take that chance? Do you see those traits in Christians today?

At that moment the disciples could have refused to follow Jesus; then one lonely voice spoke up. They knew that to go to Jerusalem would possibly lead to their deaths, and they were hanging back. Then came the voice of Thomas: "Let us, too, go that we may die with him."

- Consider - Thomas was determined--come what may, he would not quit. What emotions do you think the disciples were experiencing?
- Real courage means being perfectly aware of the worst that can happen, being horribly afraid of it, and yet doing the right thing. Describe a time where you followed your fear instead of the courageous path. What did you learn from that experience?

Jesus references twelve hours in the day. There are twelve hours in the day, and they will be played out no matter what happens. The day's period is fixed, and nothing will shorten or lengthen it. Time is both our enemy and friend.

- Explain how time work for us and how it works against us in regard to the Gospel?

Our time to work for the Gospel is both available and limited.

- Consider what you have done in the past 12 hours. If you haven't used that time to glorify God, what will you consider doing differently over the next 12 hours?

Many times, we skip out on doing what we have been called to do as disciples of Christ

- What might be some excuses we give for not sharing the Gospel?
- What if we realized, or even knew when we were going to die, would you say, "I wish I had done more for Jesus?"
- If we step outside the will of God and try to avoid our purpose, what does that say about our relationship with Jesus?

The unrest and the hurry of life are so often simply due to the fact that we are trying to catch up on work which should have been done before the end of the day

- I know there never seems to be enough time to get everything I want to do finished. Why is it that we seem to never have enough time? What things can we cut out of our lives that might be used instead for the glory of God?

Jesus says *"If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. 10 But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."*

What is the real point of this passage? Is it to remind us that the sun shines for a while so we can see to work? Or to remind us that when night comes it gets dark?

- Jesus is saying I have a purpose to fulfill and I will fulfill it. What is your purpose to fulfill? Are you 100% on the side of Jesus or are you a fence straddler? How important is the Gospel to you and what are you willing to lose for its sake, friends, family, job?

Who can hear the phrase the light of the world without thinking of Jesus?

Again and again John uses the words *the dark* and *the night* to describe life without Christ, life dominated by evil.

- In a non-believer's life, what is so attractive about the night? How about a believer's life, does the darkness still carry an attraction?

Joshua 24:15 *"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

Our world offers so many opportunities *to avoid*. At some point in our lives we will be required to make a choice about whom or what we deem as important enough to serve.

- Think about your life prior to choosing Jesus. What held a higher importance in your life other than serving The Lord...money, job, family, friends, fun, vanity?
- Now as a believer, how do we reconcile the offenses to God we made while in darkness?

A man has only so much time to make his peace with God through Christ; and if he does not do so then judgment must follow. No gospel is so sure that God loved the world as the Gospel of John is; but also no gospel is so sure that love may be refused. John has two footnotes within its text--the glory of being in time; and the tragedy of being too late.