

Liberty LifeGroups Discussion

Jesus Unfiltered 2

March 7 , 2021

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.

VERSES: Matthew 10,16

From last week discuss how the first sermon of this series has changed your perception of Jesus. Was His birth scandalous? Was his childhood different? Was His adulthood and teachings challenging?

Prosperity preaching: What is your understanding of it? Can you name some current prosperity preachers on TV?

3 John 1:2. Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

- Do you think God wants us to prosper? In what ways?
- How has God prospered you as a Christian?
- Is there anything wrong with a ministry that is prosperous monetarily? What can be the danger in it?
- How much should those in ministry be paid?

Control Issues: Jesus's teachings were not about control

- At what point does a church become a cult?
- Is the Gospel meant to be a controlling document?

Condemnation: Did Jesus preach condemnation? Look at John 3:17 and discuss what that verse means.

- Does the church condemn people within the church?
- Have you ever condemned someone who is at the altar?

Politics: Is Jesus a Republican or a Democrat?

- Did His teaching promote political issues? Did He endorse any political candidate?
- When you see a political candidate with a Bible, does it change your perspective about that candidate and why?

Religion: Why are there so many denominations?

- What is the difference between religion and relationship?
- If Jesus came back today, which denomination would he preach from?

Jesus's teaching is an offense to many

Matthew 10:34 Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

- When you read this verse, how does it redirect your thinking about the peace of Christ we hear preached so often?

- How about the first part, *do not think*? Is it possible we overthink the Gospel? Is it possible that we have forgotten how to think independently and allowed someone else to tell us what the Gospel says? When you hear the Gospel preached, what or how do you relate to it?
- Jesus said He didn't bring peace, but a sword. What is this Gospel sword He speaks of?
- Why does the Gospel bring division to a family or friends? Have you lost friends or family because of your belief in Christ? What happened?

Matthew 16:34 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Forget You

Denying self is not the same as self-denial. We practice self-denial when, for a good purpose, we occasionally give up things or activities. But we deny self when we surrender ourselves to Christ and determine to obey His will.

- When Jesus speaks of the desire to follow, it is meant as engaging your will to do so. What were some of the difficulties you encountered as you began the process of denying self?

To bear the cross means to accept the rejection of the world for turning to Jesus and following him.

Discipleship involves a death that is like a crucifixion.

- How do you handle rejection of others when you make known you are a Christ follower?
- Such a concept of discipleship is so radical that many contemporary Christians have difficulty relating to it. What do you see in today's world in regard to Christ, or even in the church? Is the devotion to Christ gaining or weaning?
- Do you remember the WWJD bracelets? That's the kind of thinking we are to use. It's not about me, it's about allowing Jesus to guide me, and I am to have unwavering loyalty to Him. It is hard to do because it goes against our natural man. I have failed many times, have you?