

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

With Jesus, It's Personal

Week of August 5, 2018 A.D.

In our fast paced world of fractured families, text messaging, and unceasing activity, Jesus longs for you to be “called out from the world”, to slow down, to spend time with Him, and to be His best friend forever. Is He worthy of you? That is the topic of this study.

Read Psalm 23:1 – 6

1. Read Psalm 23:1 and Matthew 6:11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Psalm 23:1 and Matthew 6:11 are figurative language coming from the heart and mind of the Creator of the heavens and the earth. God cannot and will not provide my daily necessities.”
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Without electricity, indoor plumbing, and petroleum products (a) human life is not sustainable on this planet, (b) life would have no meaning or value, and (c) people could not enjoy relationships with each other or with God.”
3. Read Psalm 23:2 and Exodus 20:8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Without electricity, indoor plumbing, and petroleum products, a fast-paced life would not exist and people would be bored, depressed, and believe that life is meaningless.”
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “If we were living in America in 1850, and if it were illegal to work on Sunday, we would see no valid reason to attend a Sunday church service or to have any personal interaction with friends and/or family members.”
5. Read Psalm 23:3 and Matthew 6:10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “God is holy, righteous, and just. God lives in heaven. We live on earth. So, God doesn't care if we sin here on earth. God just doesn't want us to contaminate His heavenly dwelling with our presence there.”
6. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The sole and primary purpose for my life on earth is to live a righteous and holy life which is pleasing to God. My personal health, wealth, and pleasure are not my concern at all – I am to trust these matters entirely to God.”

Read Psalm 23:4 and Hebrews 13:5 – 6

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Jesus loves us so much that He personally inspired forty different authors to write the sixty-six books of the Bible over a period of 1500 years so that I can read the Bible every now and then if I feel like it.”

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “If more people relied upon Jesus through prayer, meditation, and the reading of the Bible, there would be less people on mood altering drugs.”

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The Christians in America do not seek or desire a personal relationship with Christ. They prefer a God who is impersonal, distant, and does not interfere in their personal lifestyle choices.”

10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The more I embrace the technology, government influence, entertainment, and materialism of our culture, the more distant I become in my relationship with Christ.”

11. In your opinion, what will it take for Christians to demonstrate to God and to the American culture that they are the “ecclesia”? (Ecclesia is the Greek word for “church” which literally means “the called-out (ones)” from the world.)

12. In your opinion, do the verses at Revelation 3:14 – 22 describe the current church in America? If not, why not? If so, what (if anything) should Christians in America do to bring about the repentance which pleases God? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Consider: Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a personal relationship with God in which Jesus is the Good Shepherd and in which we follow Jesus in a close, personal, dependent relationship as His sheep. “You think about that.” Amen.