

Apr 15, 2018



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Follow Jesus and let the world know He is your rabbi

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Thank You, Lord, for the high honor of being called to follow You. May my life so imitate You that others will know that You are the pursuit of my life and the rabbi of my soul

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

(Matt 4:19 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 10, 2014)

Special Series

Starting next week Bro.

Don Smarto will lead us in a six week series titled **Ideas for Practical Prayer in a Busy Life** using Jeremiah 33:3; Jeremiah 29:12; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 and Matthew 7:7

Follow Me John 21:15-25

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson review how and why Jesus challenged Peter to **Follow Me**. The study's aim is to see that everything in God's Word is there for our learning. The study's application is to govern our life's choices by the clear instructions of Scripture.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

This week's lesson picks up the scene a short while later, after Jesus had invited them to "come and dine" (John 21:12), "When they had dined" (vs. 15). What followed the lakeside breakfast was perhaps one of the most momentous conversations that the Apostle Peter ever took part in. Ever since the night of Jesus' arrest, Peter had lived under a cloud of guilt from having denied his Lord. The fact that Jesus had foretold this denial would not have assuaged the bitterness. Peter lived with the shame of knowing that while the other disciples fled and abandoned their Master, he had explicitly and publicly disowned Him—not just once in a careless moment, but three times. Peter was one of the first persons Jesus appeared to after His resurrection (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5). We can reasonably surmise that the Lord extended His forgiveness at this initial meeting. It would be unlike Jesus to withhold His grace or let one He loved dangle in uncertainty. But Jesus wanted more for Peter than simply the assurance of being forgiven. He wanted to restore him as a servant to fulfill the role of apostle that he had been called to (cf. Matt. 16:17-19). In accomplishing Peter's restoration, Jesus did not delve into a lengthy analysis of his sin. Instead, Jesus asked this simple but penetrating question: "do you truly love me more than these?" It was a fitting question, for it pointed to the crux of Peter's earlier failure—he had loved the approval of others more than the favor of Christ. Now he had to decide—did he really love Jesus more than the other disciples did? We must note that Jesus' question can also be read, Did Peter love Jesus more than he loved the other disciples—or other things? But it seems possible that the Lord was gently pointing Peter back to his boast that even if everyone else deserted Jesus, he would not (Mark 14:29). Peter did not attempt to answer the comparative element of the question in any case, he simply declared, "Lord you know that I love you". He knew that Jesus could read his heart and that He would discern genuine love for Him there, even if it was not flawless and heroic as Peter once assumed. Jesus did not confirm or dispute Peter's statement but responded with a simple command: "Feed my lambs." This was the essential next step in Peter's restoration. He needed to get his mind off his past failure and look instead to the task ahead. Jesus indeed had a leadership role in mind for him, but that leadership was to be humble in nature. He was to take on the shepherd's role of feeding and caring for the Lord's sheep, His followers. In this he would be following the humble footsteps of the Shepherd Himself. In carrying out this command, Peter would also be demonstrating his love for the Master in a way that could not be disputed.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Following Jesus out of Love (John 21:15-17)

Loving God's nurturing so that we can nurture others (15)

- Nurturing the weak (1 Kings 19:5-8)
- Nurturing the needy (2 Kings 4:2-6)
- Nurturing through others (2 Cor 8:14)
- Nurturing by God's supplying directly (2 Cor 9:10)
- Nurturing through God's glorious riches (Phil 4:19)

Loving God's leading so that we can lead others (16)

- Leadership that leads to justification (Gal 3:24)
- Leadership that leads to the right way (Mark 10:32)
- Leadership that leads to the Father God (John 14:6)
- Leadership that leads to a cleared way (1 Thess 3:11)

Loving God's knowledge and wisdom so that we pass it on to others (17)

- A knowledge of God that comes from Christians being a shining light (2 Cor 4:6)
- Knowledge that comes from the anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20)
- A knowledge that gives us an understanding that God is the "true" God (1 John 5:20)
- Knowledge that is eternal life (John 17:3)

Following Jesus by Responding to His Call (John 21:18-19)

Responding by seeking God's guidance (18)

- Guidance that is part of God's plan for our life (Jer 29:11)
- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance that is not under the law (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)

Responding by glorifying God in all we do (19)

- Glorifying God is part of praise and worship (Ps 34:3)
- All Christians should glorify God by the good lives they live (1 Peter 2:12)
- Sometimes sickness is used so that God might be glorified (John 11:4)
- Glorifying God through our transformed lives (2 Cor 3:18)

Following Jesus Personally (John 21:20-23)

Personally be committed to God (20)

- Committed to do the will of God (John 4:34)
- Committed to finish the assigned tasks (John 5:36-37)
- Committed to the end of life (John 19:30)
- Committed to not give up (Heb 12:1-5)

Personally by not comparing ourselves to others (21-22)

- Comparing to others does not save us, only our seeking Jesus saves (Luke 13:23-24)
- Comparing to others may disappoint us because God's values are different (Luke 13:30)
- Comparing to others sometimes leads to pride (Luke 18:9-11)
- Comparing our sin to others is meaningless, we all must repent or we will perish (Luke 13:1-5)

Personally by being prepared give up life (23)

- Willing to die because of keeping the faith (2 Tim 4:6-7)
- Willing to die because of the name of Jesus (Acts 21:13)
- Willing to die because to die is gain in Jesus (Phil 1:21)
- Willing to die trying to finish the task Jesus has assigned (Acts 20:24)

Following Jesus Because of His Truth (John 21:24-25)

Truth through God's Word (24)

- God's word is truth because God is righteous (Ps 119:142)
- God's word is truth because Jesus is the word (John 1:14)
- God's word is truth because Jesus' words brings knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32)
- God's word is truth because it is the actual Word of God (1 Thess 2:13)

Truth through Jesus' works (25)

- Jesus' works provides knowledge that He is God in the flesh (John 10:38)
- Jesus' works testified that He was sent from God (John 5:36)
- Jesus' works were accredited by God (Acts 2:22)