

WEEK 4: SEEKING JESUS

INTRODUCTION

Pretend you are going to get married; give us an example of one reason you would love for your spouse to want to marry you (i.e. for my humor) and give us one example of one reason you would *not* want your spouse to marry you (i.e. for my money)?

DISCOVER

Seeking a Genie or Seeking our Lord

This week; read John 6:1-71

In verse 5; Jesus asks Philip “where shall we buy bread for these people to eat”? If Jesus is all knowing; why do you think He asked Philip this question?

Why do you think Jesus provided so much food that there were 12 baskets full of leftovers?

Throughout the gospels we see that Jesus is gracious, inviting and welcoming. (For example He makes promises such as; seek and you will find, ask and it will be given, knock and it will be open.) However in **verses 14 & 24-25**; the crowd appears to be seeking Jesus in order to follow Him yet Jesus retreats (**verse 15**) from them and rebukes them (**verse 26**); why do you think Jesus reacted this way?

(Refer to **verses 26 and 15**)

APPLICATION

What does this teach us about *how* we are to seek Jesus?

How are we to seek Jesus according to the following verses...?

(According to **Deut 4:29**)

(According to **John 6:15**... this is tough to figure out, we will discuss)

What does it look like to seek Jesus with all your heart and soul, in a *sincere* way?

What does it look like to make God your personal genie/gofer? What does it look like when God is the love of your life and the Lord of your life?

DISCOVER

Personal Faith in Jesus

Jesus then goes on (**in verses 41-58**) to give a discourse (lecture/teaching) in which He declares that; He is the Son of God- therefore greater than Moses; He is descended from Heaven; and He is sent by God the Father (Father head of the Trinity) and every person must acknowledge that Jesus is God and place their personal faith in Him for eternal life. Just as one must *personally* eat and drink to sustain physical life, one must *personally* appropriate (place faith in) Jesus to have eternal life.

For example; if "Joe" goes to a cafeteria every day but Joe makes a personal choice not to eat or drink, then Joe will quickly die of dehydration and starvation even though he is surrounded by food and water. It is not the cafeteria that saves Joe; it is eating the food

and drinking the water in the cafeteria that will keep Joe alive. If Joe's friends pour water on Joe's body and lay sandwiches on his head, it will be of no use because Joe must make the choice to put the food and water into his mouth and swallow them. If Joe begins to volunteer around the cafeteria; sweeping the floors, and even serving other people food in the tray line, but Joe still personally rejects food and water then he will eventually dehydrate and starve to death. It is not enough that food and water exist therefore we live; we must each, personally eat it and drink it (appropriate it) to reap their nutritional benefits.

*The same is true of one's spiritual life. If Joe goes to church every week but never accepts the truth about Jesus then he will be judged for everyone one of his sins and perish in eternal separation from God. It is not the church that saves Joe, it is **accepting** and **believing** in the truth that God reveals through the church (or the Bible, or a friend, or through creation, etc.) to Joe that saves him. If Joe's friends baptize him, feed him communion, and pray for him, it will not be enough unless Joe personally accepts Jesus. If Joe volunteers at the church and reads Bible stories to his children every night and prays occasionally, but Joe still rejects the fact that Jesus is God and died for Joe's sins, then Joe will remain alienated from God in this life and perish in eternal separation from God in the life to come. Our solution is Jesus, but we must each personally accept and believe in Him (appropriate Him) to have eternal life with Him in Heaven.*

After this discourse we see in **verse 66** that much of the crowd turned back and stopped following Jesus at this point. Why do you think they stopped following after this discourse?

Do you think that it can be a little frightening to accept the fact that there is one God and Creator? Why?

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER

Is Jesus my genie or my Lord?

Is Jesus my first love?

- Where do I spend my free time? With Him or with the things of the world?
- What does my check book indicate my first love to be?
- What does my lifestyle indicate?

What do I pray most about; things I need Jesus to give me OR more of Jesus in my life?