

100 Days with Jesus

Study No:1 Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction

This is a typical little soap opera story. Mary and Joseph are betrothed. They are saving up to get married, and then she tells him she is pregnant. They are both godly people, her being pregnant is a disgrace. Times were much more conservative then. This is such a very human story of a very human situation. Then suddenly, we go from the very human to the ultra-cosmic and mysterious.

1. Have you ever seen an angel, or know someone who has?
2. We often think about the qualities of Mary and why God chose her. Why do you think God chose Joseph?
3. What consequences would there be for Joseph sticking with Mary?
4. In how many different ways does God communicate with us?
5. Joseph wakes up and does what he has been told in the dream. Have you ever felt that God has spoken to you? How certain were you that it was God?
6. What is the most difficult thing God has ever asked you to do?
7. What do you think God is wanting you to do at the moment?

Prayer

Lord God

As you are finding me, help me to find,

As you are speaking, help me to hear,

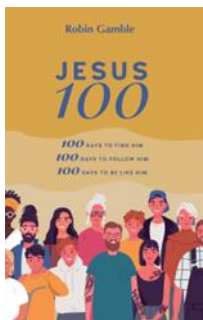
As you are appearing, help me to see.

That I might awaken and do as you command.

Amen.

Leaders Notes.

4. Through his words; through other Christians, through circumstances, in dreams, in prayer, and inner conviction.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:2 Mark 1:2-11

Introduction

Jesus has gone from baby to boy to man and is about to launch out on his great mission.

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. As with Jesus, his birth was announced by angels, made a huge impact on his parents Elizabeth and Zechariah (Luke 1: 5); and was commemorated by a great early Christian hymn (Luke 1: 67).

The supply-line of prophets in Israel had dried up years ago. Suddenly there was a new one, and a great one too. He was a young man in his mid to late 20s, living an austere life-style, a righteous, non-compromising man. Calling a spade a spade and a sin a sin, John travelled around the towns and villages of Judah, which was in the south. With great passionate eloquence he called people out to be baptised in the River Jordan and out they came by the truckload. There was something in all of this of a return to the great days of Moses and the escape from Egypt. There was to be a new purified people of God, a new Exodus, Israel would be a newly cleansed promised land and his baptism and 'soaking' was the new crossing of the Red Sea.

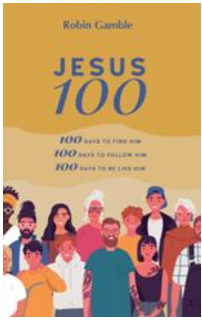
1. How was John preparing the way for Jesus?
2. Why do you think so many people were attracted to such a demanding message?
3. If you were responding to John's message, would you have much to repent of?
4. What response do you think John would receive today?
5. How would you compare and contrast the ministries of John and Jesus?
6. V9 Why do you think Jesus, the one without sin, should be baptised?
7. V10 What is the significance of the Spirit descending like a dove?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus
Your light exposes my darkness
Your purity highlights my sinfulness
Your love contrasts with my selfishness
So may your truth point to my failing
Call me to repentance
And wash me in forgiveness
And may I emerge from the water Newer
Cleaner
Better
For you
Amen.

Leaders Notes

Q6. This is a difficult question. Most people think it is Jesus wanting to affirm the ministry of John and our need for repentance.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:3 Matthew 4:1-11

Introduction

Living our busy lives, the best that many of us can manage are brief God gaps. A quick few minutes, perhaps between shower and breakfast, a thought and prayer whilst driving the car or a hurried reading and prayer before sleep. Jesus lived a different way, he made space for God or to put it better, he made space for himself to be with God.

He is coming out of the decisive launching experience of his baptism. He is about to begin his great world changing ministry. So much to do, so little time to do it. But before beginning, or rather, as a way of beginning, he goes off alone into the wilderness, 'the empty lands' and spends 40 days just himself and God.

1. If you were to mark your present prayer life out of 10, how many marks would you give yourself?
2. Why do you think Jesus and others fast? Have you ever had a go?
3. In this passage the Devil, the Tempter, is portrayed like a physical person who appears before Jesus. How else could he be portrayed?
4. V3-4 What is the essence of this first temptation? How could we apply this temptation to our own Christian life?
5. V5-7 What is the essence of this second temptation? How could we apply this temptation to our own Christian life?
6. V8-10 What is the essence of this third temptation? How could we apply this temptation to our own Christian life?

7. VII It appears that Jesus has this time of concentrated temptation and then it passes. Has this been your experience in your Christian life, or do you find yourself being tempted most of the time?
8. What have you discovered to be the best ways to avoid temptation?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

Where is my wilderness?

Whose is the tempting voice I hear?

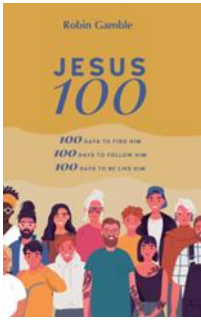
What is the temptation that draws me?

Will you help me overcome it?

Amen.

Leaders notes

1. The point is not to beat yourself up. Few if any of us are good at prayer and none of us are as good as Jesus. It is far better to be honest, but to say I would like to be a bit more like Jesus.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:4 John 1:35-51

Introduction

Great though the works of John the Baptist had been, here comes Jesus to do a much, much greater work. So we see John point beyond himself to Jesus the Lamb, and then we see two of his disciples move on to become followers of Jesus.

1. V36 Why does John describe Jesus as 'The lamb of God'?
2. V37 Two of John's disciples leave him to follow Jesus. How do you think John felt?
3. V38 Jesus says to John's two disciples, 'What do you want?' When you came to faith, what were you looking for?
4. V40-42. What important lesson can we learn from Peter in these verses.?
5. In those days the usual practice was for a disciple to choose their own Rabbi. Jesus turns this practice on its head by choosing his disciples. When you came to faith did it feel like you choosing Jesus or him choosing you?
6. If you had been alive in those days and Jesus asked you to follow him, what do you think your reply would have been?
7. What do you think Jesus is asking you to do at the present time?
8. Andrew brings Peter. The next day back in Galilee Philip brings Nathaniel. In these two stories all the key steps to discipleship are laid out for us: -
 - i) The searching for more
 - ii) Jesus turning and beckoning
 - iii) Searching becomes following
 - iv) Jesus draws us in
 - v) The searchers turn and beckon their friends
 - vi)

Where do you think you are up to in your spiritual journey?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

Rabbi, teacher, leader.

I am still searching

Still following

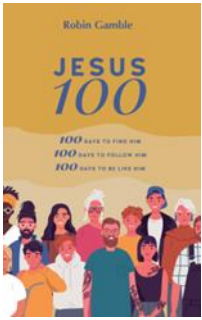
Still wanting to become like you.

So may you help me today on my journey.

Amen.

Leaders Notes

4 There is no right or wrong answer to this question. For some of us we seem to seek out Jesus, and for others it feels as if Jesus seeks out us.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:5 John 2v1-11

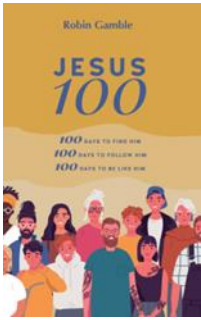
Introduction

Weddings are massive, though quite intimidating events. For many they are the biggest day of their lives. Food and drink, early morning nerves and late-night revels, wedding dresses and best outfits, tears and laughter all combine in these love celebrations and launching into new lives.

1. With the exception of your own wedding, which was the best you have ever been to and why?
2. Read John 2v1-11
Why do you think Mary, Jesus and all his disciples were invited to the wedding?
3. Can you work out how much water was turned into wine , in gallons, pints and bottles?
4. Why do you think Jesus produced so much wine?
5. Why do you think he produced the wine out of water rather than out of thin air?
6. If Jesus produced so much wine, and they had already drunk what the bride's father had provided, does this suggest Jesus is in favour of drunkenness.
7. Why did denominations like the Methodists and the Salvation Army advocate teetotalism.
8. Why do you think heaven is often described in the Bible as a party, feast, banquet or wedding?

Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
that you are interested in every part of my life.
The special events and my ordinary everyday activities.
May I bring all of my life to you,
So that you may bless it,
and make it even more special.
Amen



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:6 Math 5v13-15

Introduction

So when did Britain become such a foody nation? Who was the first person to put great, modern food on the telly? Was it baby-faced Jamie, foul-mouthed Gordon, or delectable Nigella? Speaking as a non-chef and pretty much non-kitchen person, I have this old-fashioned view that salt is about taste. Good food should taste good and a bit of salt brings up the taste. So salt is important, and as for light, who wants to live in a world without candles. These days people can't even go to a pop concert, remember an old friend or even have a bath without lighting a few. So when Jesus talks about salt and light he is scratching where we itch.

1. Read Matthew 5v13-15
2. What are the different qualities that salt has?
3. Why was salt even more important in Jesus day than it is now?
4. Why do you think it is so difficult to be salt like?
5. Can you think of an occasion when God has asked you to be salt?
6. Can you remember an occasion when you were in the dark and were scared?
7. In what ways can we shine for Jesus?
8. How do we turn our brightness up? Where does our light come from?

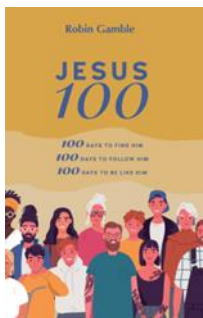
Conclusion and Prayer

Salt and light are about lifestyle and character as well as words and image. They are about who we are, what we do, and how we speak. Later on in the Sermon Jesus takes this double image or metaphor and applies it to our anger management (v21), marital faithfulness (v27), divorce (31), personal honesty (v33), generosity (v38) and love for our enemies (v43). These are all real-life issues, not Sunday morning in church, but seven days a week in the world issues. Are we saltily flavoursome in our financial generosity or are we tasteless and tight-fisted? Are our relationships characterised by a lightsome smile or are they grey and full of shadows?

That is an awful lot of salt and light. Enough, in fact, to change the world, making it a tastier and brighter place.

Prayer

Jesus
You truly were the light of the world
And the salt of the earth.
Help me become like you
That I might never lose my saltiness
Or hide my light.
And that the place where I live
Might be a better home.
Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:7 Math 6v24-34

Introduction

'Money makes the world go round' – Liza Minnelli in Cabaret

'Money, that's what I want' – The Beatles

'Money, money, money in a rich man's world' – Abba

'Living in a material world, and I am a material girl' – Madonna

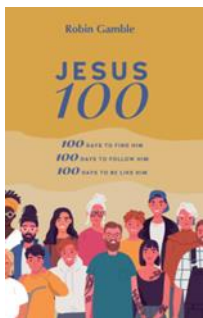
'Forget about the price tag' – Jesse J

Of course everyone needs money. We need food and shelter, clothes and a roof and a certain amount of pleasure and luxury. Jesus understands our need for cash, but he also understands our love for it. It is this, our cash hunger, our money madness, our grubby, all consuming, love denying, and life absorbing gold lust that he sees as our ultimate life and peace despoiler.

1. Jesus says more about money than about prayer. Why do you think this is?
2. How can money control our life?
3. Is it right to think of money as a God?
4. Money is not evil, it is the love of money which can be evil. How can having money be good for a Christian?
5. What are the things you worry about most?
6. What is the Christian antidote to worry?
7. Is overcoming worry something you learn once, or is it something you have to keep returning to?
8. Are there any particular bits of advice about overcoming worry that you would like to share with the group?

Prayer

'Lord you are more precious than silver
Lord you are more costly than gold
Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire compares with you.'
Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:8 Mark 4v2-9,14-20

Introduction

It does not look it but it is another big battle story. Except here the energy is not so much naked evil as shallow complacency, spiritual indifference and the often triviality of busy lives.

Jesus had the amazing knack of wandering around thinking about what he saw and then pulling amazing illustrations or stories out of it all. His Galilean world was a place of villages and fields. That's not the sort of pretty and prosperous countryside that we all love so much. His villages were filled with poverty; his fields were dry and stony. Farming then was part of a desperate struggle to survive. It is in this world that many of his parables were born.

Jesus wants to get across to the people that something new is happening, something is growing. It is the Kingdom. The growing is of God, but it is not simple and straightforward. There are reverses and failures, but the growing is happening. So he pulls out four, 'see that field over there,' type stories or parables.

- The Parable of the Sower (Mk. 4: 2)
- The Parable of the Growing Seed (Mk 4: 26)
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mk 4: 30)
- The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Mt 13: 24)

1. From your own experience is it easy or difficult to live the Christian life and share the Christian faith?
2. Read Mark 4v2-9
3. According to this parable was it easy or difficult to grow crops in Israel where Jesus was brought up? What are we supposed to learn from this?
4. As a church how do we cope with the disappointment of events that don't go as well as we had hoped, people don't attend services we have invited them to, or even people stop attending Church?
5. V4 What might the birds represent in your life?

6. V5 How can we develop deeper soil in your life?
7. V7 What might the thorns represent in your life?
8. Read Mark 4v14-20
9. V8 Can you think of someone in your church who has grown significantly over the past couple of years?

Prayer

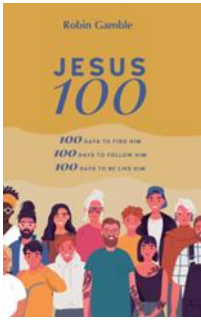
Lord Jesus

Let the seed of Good News
Sink deep into my heart.

Let the seed of the Kingdom
Stir me to scatter seeds
To my friends and family

Lord Jesus

Help me to grow
Closer to you
And stronger for you
Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:9 Mark 6v45-51

Introduction

The thing about Jesus is that there is more than one thing about him. Firstly, there is his humanity. He is made out of ordinary human flesh, had a normal human childhood shared with brothers and sisters, shares in human temptations, hungers and struggles. All this points to the idea that he fully understands us. Secondly, the other worldly, mysterious, impossible to understand, slightly scary stuff is what we often don't relate to that well. Yet this is the side, or the aspect, of Jesus that we see in this story. Jesus comes from another place, is a creature of eternity, the living word and the son of God and every now and again he shows us that.

1. Do you like water, boats sailing and all that stuff or are you a land lover?
2. Read Mark 6v45-51.
3. V45 Why do you think Jesus makes the disciples get into the boat, while he himself goes up the mountain to pray? You can get more insight into this by looking at the parallel story in John 6 v14-15.
4. Do you find it easiest to pray during the intersessions in church, in a small group or on your own?
5. In v47-48 we see the disciples straining at the oars and Jesus is nowhere to be seen. Have you felt like that yourself recently?
6. V48 says that while he was up the mountain praying he saw his disciples staining against the oars. What encouragement does this verse give you?
7. Why do you think Jesus doesn't go to them straight away?

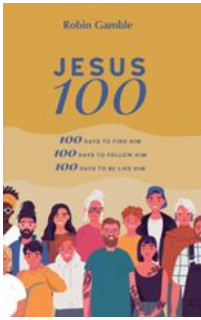
8. Can you think of any occasions when Jesus has come to you in the middle of a crisis?
9. What is the most important thing you have learnt from this passage?

Prayer

Lord Jesus
I am straining at the oars
Life is hard work
I am spiritually tired
And my arms ache
Can you see me
Walk towards me
And climb into my boat
Amen.

Leaders notes

3. *This is potentially a tempting time because the crowd want to make him king. Perhaps he first gets the disciples out of the way of temptation then he goes up the mountain in order to humble himself before his Father.*



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:10 John 8v3-11

Introduction

Adultery is a bad thing, a sign of lives gone wrong. Sometimes it represents a genuine search for love in a loveless marriage, for real fire in a grate that has stood cold for years. Often it is a selfish desire for extra pleasure. It causes deep and lasting pain and can completely wreck a life. It always leaves someone, be they a wife, husband or child, filled with deep regrets. If this woman is adulterous then there is pain, breaking of trust and guilt all over the place.

1. V 3 says that the woman had been caught in the act of adultery. Why is it the women alone who is being judged by the Pharisees?
2. V5 Why do you think the law of Moses takes such a harsh stance against adultery?
3. We often tend to think some sins are worse than others. What do you think God thinks?
4. V6 Why do you think the Pharisees were often trying to trap Jesus?
5. V6+8 Why do you think Jesus wrote on the ground?
6. Why do you think we are often quick to judge others?
7. Looking at this story of Jesus dealing with this woman, what does it teach us about God.
8. Have you ever been aware of Jesus forgiving you? How did it feel?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

Who am I judging today?

Who am I pointing fingers at?

Who am I looking down on?

May you touch my heart

With empathy, understanding and sensitivity.

Amen.

Leaders Notes

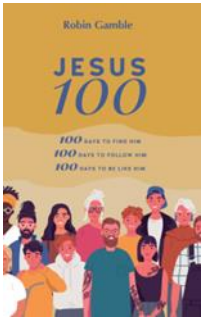
2 The law of Moses is the first five books of the Bible. This law is in Leviticus 20v10.

5 We don't know.

i) Some people think he may have been playing for time while he thought out his response.

ii) Others think he was writing specific sins of those who were stood around him.

iii) Another idea is that he was echoing Roman law, and writing firstly her crime – adultery – and secondly her sentence – death. But the words were temporary, scuffed out by the feet of her accusers as they shuffled away. So it becomes an emblem of forgiveness: our sins aren't written in concrete, but in dust.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:11 Matthew 17v1-13

Introduction

This incident points from Earth to Heaven. Jesus and the disciples have climbed above the normal, the everyday, the routine, the usual. They have looked into the distance, the distant past and the distant future. That is largely why people climb mountains, to see into the distance. To see beyond the normal, to look down and see the everyday routine as so many ants scrambling about in the dust. To see beauty, mystery, light and shade.

Here on the mountain top, they see, get excited and begin to feel things they have never felt before.

1. It seems as if Peter, James and John were like the inner core of the twelve for Jesus. Why do you think he needed this?
2. Have you got particular people you lean at important times?
3. V3 Of all the Old Testament characters that could have appeared on the mountain, why do you think it was Moses and Elijah.
4. V4 Why do you think Peter offers to build three shelters?
5. Are you tempted to do things for Jesus rather than simply being with Jesus?
6. V5 Why do you think God speaks to his Son at his baptism and here at the Transfiguration?
7. V9 Why do you think Jesus instructed them not to tell anyone until after the resurrection?

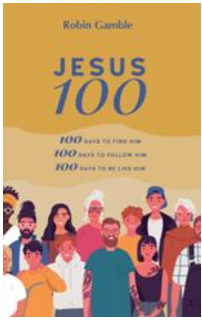
8. The disciples question in v10 goes back to a prophecy in Malachi 4v5-6
"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."
What do you think Jesus reply in v11-12 means?
9. Have you ever had a 'Mountain top experience' when God felt particularly close to you?

Prayer

Lord God
Heavenly Father
Help me to be silent
To listen
To gaze
To wonder
To hear
And then take me
Up the mountain
Amen.

Leaders Notes

3 Most people think Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Prophets.
4 Some of us are always needing to do something rather than taking in the moment. The story of Mary and Martha is a prime example.
8 Firstly, spiritual speaking Elijah had already come in the person of John the Baptist. John was an Elijah like figure.
Secondly, Elijah, or another Elijah like figure will appear before Jesus returns.
Or another way of looking at this is to say that God is always sending Elijah like figures to call us back to himself.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:12 Matthew 20v20-28

Introduction

Jesus chose twelve disciples. These were to be his main men. He prayed over them and gave them extra teaching and training. These were the ones he invested himself in and on whom he was to depend. At the end of his time on earth he entrusted his whole mission to them. Twelve special men, the great ones, the faithful ones. One for each of the Old Testament tribes so forming the New Israel. So special in fact that today we see them in our stained glass windows and remember their names.

In actual fact one of them betrayed Jesus, another one denied him three times whilst a third lost all faith in him. And here are two of his inner-core of three completely eaten up by ego and power lust, and not only that but they are hiding it behind their mother's skirt. James and John are supposed to be the Sons of Thunder!

1. What is the best thing you have ever been chosen for? It could be something at school, a job, a hobby, in fact any area of your life?
2. Read Matthew 20v20-28.
3. What is the significance of it being their mother who made this request?
4. Most of us like to feel important. Why is this?
5. When do you find this sort of temptation greatest in your own life?
6. v23 What do you think the phrase, 'drink the cup I am going to drink' mean?
7. v24 What does the response of the other 10 disciples tell us about them?
8. In what areas of your life do you sense God wants you to develop more of a servant heart?
9. If Jesus can choose and use such dysfunctional disciples as these, what encouragement does this give you?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

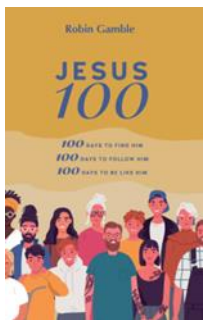
I will never be the perfect disciple

I may never be a very good disciple

But help me, as I follow you

To be the best disciple I can be

Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:13 Luke 10v25-37

Introduction

In the parable of the Good Samaritan it is not so much that Jesus campaigns against prejudices but rather that he transcends all our modern moralities and political correctness with a story of ridiculously generous love.

Morality is about a new sense of accepted rules, political correctness is born out of a new social and cultural awareness, but love comes out of a completely new sort of heart.

1. What is the kindest thing anybody has ever done for you?
2. Read Luke 10v25-37
3. Why do you think this has become one of the best known and most loved stories in the world?
4. Who are the Samaritans in our society today?
5. Which sort of people do you find most difficult to consider as your neighbour?
6. The expert lived by the Law; Jesus lived by Grace. Which do you live by?
7. When are you tempted to slip from Grace to Law?
8. The Good Samaritan both helped the man practically and helped him financially. Some of us tend to be better at helping and some of us by giving. Which are you?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

Burn out my racial prejudice

Expose my sexism

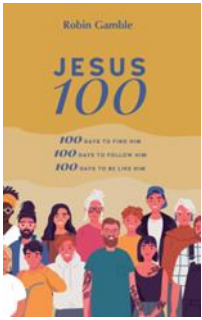
Eradicate my snobbishness and sense of superiority

Help me to see, to accept

And to love

In a new way.

Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:14 Luke 19v11-26

Introduction

Robin Gamble who wrote, '100 Days with Jesus says',

As a teenager I was a football obsessive, watching it, reading about it in magazines, playing and fantasising about it. Of course, I was nothing like my superheroes, in fact, I was nothing like the best players in my school or even my class. I was a four talent footballer, I was always surrounded by others with eight, nine or ten talents.

I was also surrounded by one, two and three talent players but that's another picture. The point is I never compared myself to the lesser talents and thought 'Oh, I'm ok at this game'. I always looked at the biggest and the best and thought, 'They are really good but I'm pretty rubbish'.

When I started following Jesus it was exactly the same. I was in a big Christian youth group. I was good with the God talk but not so good at the walk. There were always others who were nicer, kinder, more prayerful and less screwed up than me. The same thing happened when I became a young vicar, an older vicar and even now when I am a pretty ancient vicar. There are always others who are wiser, more peaceful, less angry and more Godly. I seem to be permanently living as a four to six talent person surrounded by superstars.

Actually this story is not about giving us marks. Jesus is not a judge in 'Strictly Come Christian', holding up a notice board and commenting on our footwork. He is an encourager, not a 'pointer-outer'. That is to say whether we are very talented or have lesser things to offer he welcomes all of us as fellow Kingdom builders. It is about every one of us offering, giving, trying, doing and never burying.

1. Read Luke 19v11-26
2. Do you think God gives everyone a talent?
3. If God has given you one talent, what do you think it is?
4. Why do you think the 3rd servant hid his talent?
5. Are you ever tempted to hide your talents?

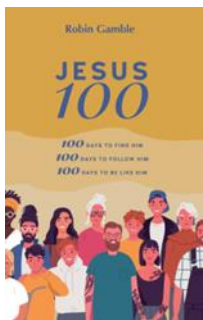
6. Why do you think the master was so angry with the 3rd servant?
7. What do you think v26 means. '...to everyone who has, more will be given.'?

Prayer

Lord God,
Help me to be the person you have made me,
To use the talent you have given me,
To reflect the light you have shone on me,
And to live the life you have opened for me.
Amen.

Leaders Notes.

Q2 The Bible teaches that God has given everyone at least one talent. He has often given us more than one. Some talents are obvious like preaching or singing, but they also include: administration, practical jobs, encouraging, cooking, etc



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:15 Luke 19v1-10

Introduction

Say hello to Zacchaeus, the Danny DeVito of the Gospels. Big house, plenty of money, other rich friends and despised by the people. Why, because he is the exact opposite of Robin Hood. Zacchaeus is a tax collector which means he squeezes the money out of the people, gives some of it to the Romans, but keeps a big cut for himself.

1. If tax collectors were not liked in Jesus day, which group are looked down on or hated today?
2. Read Luke 19v1-10
3. Why did Zacchaeus have to climb a tree?
4. Looking at this story do you think Jesus is interested in crowds or individuals?
5. Can you think of other occasions when Jesus picks out an individual in a crowd?
6. Why does Jesus invite himself back to Zacchaeus house?
7. Have you ever been aware of Jesus entering your life?
8. When Zacchaeus came to faith parts of his life changed instantly. What changes has Jesus made in your life?
9. If Jesus wants you to spend time with one individual, who do you think that would be?

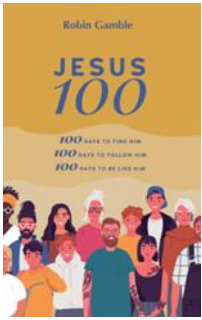
Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Where, or rather, who is the Zacchaeus in my life?
Slow me down, that I might remember him
Help me to recall her voice, his face
Help me to notice him, to visit her.
Amen.

Leaders Notes

Q3 Not only was he small, but others would not allow him to the front.

Q5 eg Luke 5 Jesus speaking to a crowd and then he picks out Peter to be his disciple.
Matthew 9v20f the women with the flow of blood in the middle of a crowd, The paralytic man at the crowded pool of Bethesda in John 5. Blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10v46f. The widow with her mite Mark 12v41f.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:16 John 9v1-12

Introduction

Blindness was a much bigger problem in Jesus' time than it is today.

Poor living conditions, lack of sanitation and masses of venomous insects made it a common illness which usually resulted in people becoming beggars. Of all the healing miracles there are three of blind people having their sight restored that stand out. The man of Bethsaida who when first touched by Jesus saw people looking like trees and then on the second touch saw them as people. Bartimaeus was a blind beggar in Jericho, when Jesus healed him he became one of his followers on the way. Here, in this third story, we meet a man blind from birth.

1. Have you ever known anyone who was blind? What did you learn from them?
2. Read John 9v1-10
3. V2 raises the important issue of sin. Do you think God punishes us because of our sins?
4. V6-7 is very strange. A big part of being a follower of Jesus is obeying what Jesus tells you to do. Have you ever been aware of Jesus asking you to do something that you wouldn't automatically choose to do?
5. In v 10-12 the man acts as an evangelist. He doesn't understand everything, rather he simply says what he knows. Do you think you could be a witness simply saying what you know and sharing what you have experienced?
6. In this passage the man is suffering from physical blindness and some of his neighbours are suffering from spiritual blindness. How can we help people with spiritual blindness to see.
7. John Newton wrote those famous words, 'I once was blind, but now I see'. Have you ever been blind and had your eyes opened by Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus

There are things I just cannot see

Words I cannot hear

I am blind and deaf

In ways I cannot grasp.

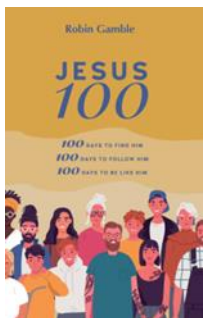
Reach out and touch me

And give me a true vision.

Amen

Leaders Notes

Q3. Suffering is not usually a punishment sent by God because of our sin. However, sometime our sins automatically lead to suffering. Eg if I get drunk I am more likely to fall over and injure myself.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:17 Mark 12:1-12

Introduction

This is the first of Jesus's big teachings in his festival of teaching in the last week of his life. It is a big parable and it is a destiny story. It is all about who he is, what he is doing and where he is going.

If you follow the young Luke Skywalker in the original Star Wars trilogy you see him discovering, wrestling with and finally fulfilling a strong sense of destiny. It all begins with his birth and a spiritual awakening brought to him by Obi-Wan Kenobi. This awakening is a calling but he is free to either reject or follow his destiny. The same story of a destiny accepted and followed is present in Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings and Superman etc. In all these stories the word destiny is tied to the word destination. The destination of all these heroes is victory in the face of overwhelming odds. For Jesus the destination, the climax of his destiny is the cross.

1. Read Mark 12v 1-5, 6-8, 9-12
2. In the parable why do you think the tenant farmers reacted the way they did?
3. Why do you think Jesus told this parable?
4. v9 If God has taken the vineyard off the Jews who has he given it to?
5. If God has given the vineyard to The New Israel, The People of God, what do you think he expects of his new tenants?
6. What are the benefits of living in the vineyard?
7. How do you think we are doing looking after his vineyard?
8. What fruit do you think God expects from his tenants?
9. How can we increase the yield from the vineyard?

Prayer

Lord God

Thank you that I am living in a vineyard

Not in a wild place.

Thank you for the soil, the rain and the sunshine.

Help me to grow rich fruit

And to give back to you

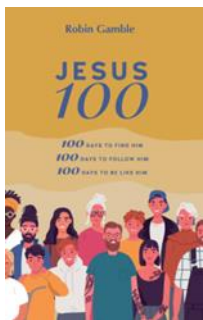
Something of what you have given to me.

May this be my destiny.

Amen.

Leaders Notes

Q4 God has not given up on Israel, his chosen people, the Jews, but because he is determined that his vineyard should bear fruit, he has called us to be responsible for his vineyard.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:18 Luke 22: 39-45

Introduction

Gardens are special places in the Bible. Genesis tells us that we were made to live in a garden, a serene place of fruitfulness and natural beauty where men and women could meet with God. At the end of the Bible, in the book of Revelation there is a new garden at the heart of the New Jerusalem. A river of life flows through it and a healing tree grows in it. Somewhere between these two we find Jesus, late at night, with his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane. It is here in this garden that we see Jesus at his weakest and saddest moment.

1. What is the most impressive garden you have ever visited?
2. Read Luke 22v 39-44,45-46
3. If Jesus was the Son of God, why is the prospect of dying on the cross so distressing to him?
4. If Jesus was the Son of God do you think he would feel physical pain?
5. Why do you think Jesus said "...yet not my will, but yours be done"?
6. Why are these words such a good model for our prayers?
7. Are you aware of any occasion when you have felt God asking you to do something that you did not want to do?
8. In v45 Jesus finds his disciples asleep. Have you ever been let down? How did it feel? Have you ever let someone else down? How did you feel?
9. At the start of Jesus ministry, we see him alone being tempted in the wilderness. At the end of his ministry, we see him alone in the Garden. What does this teach us about the Christian life?

Prayer

Lord God

As Jesus knelt before you in the garden

So I kneel before you now

May you give me strength in my weakness

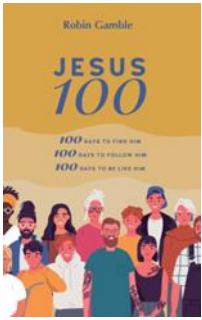
Your presence in my aloneness

And the help of an angel

When my friends let me down

That I might be true to you.

Amen.



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:19 Matthew 26:47-50, 69-75

Introduction

What a pair! One, the ultimate celebrity traitor in history and the other the most famous friendship denier of all time. They are the two who are closest to Jesus in his darkest hour. What was going on?

There are four places in the New Testament where we get a complete list of the twelve disciples. In each one Peter is top of the list and Judas is the bottom. Peter was the leader and Judas the betrayer.

1. Most Bible characters, even Peter, had bad days. If you could be anyone in the Bible for one day, who would it be and why?
2. Read Matthew 26v47-50
3. There are lots of theories as to why Judas betrayed Jesus. Which do you think is the most likely.
 - ❖ He was having a bad day.
 - ❖ He was a political terrorist (hence the name Iscariot) dedicated to the overthrow of Rome.
 - ❖ He was a permanent outsider not very well accepted by the rest of the disciple gang.
 - ❖ He had a strong liking for money
 - ❖ Maybe he betrayed Jesus in order to provoke him into action.
 - ❖ Luke's gospel suggests that he was taken over by Satan.
4. Do you think Jesus was angry with Judas? If not angry which word would you use?
5. Read Matthew 26v 69-70,71-72, 73-75
6. Are you surprised by Peters denial, or can you understand why he did it?
7. Can you think of examples of when you have found it difficult to stand up for Jesus.
8. How did Peter recover from denying Jesus to become the leader of the early Church? If you have made mistakes in your Christian life do you think Jesus can restore you?

Prayer

Father,

Forgive me for I have sinned

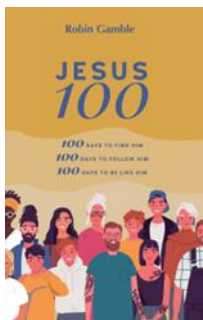
And am no longer worthy to be called your son.

I have been a Judas

I have been a Peter

Father, forgive me.

Amen



100 Days with Jesus

Study No:20 Luke 24v44-49

Introduction

The concept of power, once so appealing, has got difficult connotations today. The 'Black Lives matter' movement points to power being used to suppress and exploit black people. The environmental movement reminds us continually of how technological and economic powers are coming to destroy our world. We have a recent history of demagogues and dictators rising to power and then manipulating their power for evil doing.

However, power can be used for loving and good purposes. Love, truth, beauty and peace can be empowered. And it is this sort of power that Jesus talks to his followers about.

1. Have you ever been aware of the power of God at work in your life?
2. Jesus tends to use two words in our Christian walk with him. The first is 'COME'. Come follow me. But then after a while he says 'GO'. Go serve for me. In this passage Jesus is telling his followers they are just about to go. How do you think they felt?
3. Go around the group and share stories about COMING to Jesus. Then go around the group again telling stories of GOING for Jesus.
4. Do you think it is significant that this commission is being given to a group not just to individuals?
5. Read Acts 1v8. In this verse it underlines what Jesus said in Luke 24v44-49. When it comes to receiving the Holy Spirit, it seems to be a three-step process.
 1. Pause
 2. Receive
 3. Go.Some of us like to 'Go' but aren't very good at first 'pausing' and 'receiving'. Others are great at 'pausing' and 'receiving', but never get round to 'going'. Which are you?
6. What difference did the Holy Spirit make in the lives of the first disciples?
7. What difference has the Holy Spirit made in your life?

Prayer

It would be good to play a quiet worshipful piece of music and encourage the group to pause and receive the Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus

Help me to stay and wait

To hear the wind

To be clothed

To be empowered

And help me to go out.

Amen