

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 18:1-27
Lesson #61
Drinking the Cup
02/19/2017

"In order for you to rise higher, you have to break away from relationships that are limiting you."

"Do all you can to make your dreams come true."



Joel Osteen

1

Jesus died to save our souls not our dreams.



2

In Jesus' prayer for his disciples (John 17) he addresses God's "end game"- the answer to loneliness.

1.
That they may know God and share the glory of being one with God (vs.1-12)

2.
and that they would not be seduced by this world's false expectations (vs.13-19)

3.
but that they would bear witness in this world to the Gospel through their unity with one another in Christ (vs.20-26).

3

In Jesus' prayer for his disciples (John 17) he identifies three key issues.

1.
The central importance of knowing God (vs.1-12)

2.
The necessity of avoiding worldly hopes (vs.13-19)

3.
The witness to the world of the communion of God's people (vs.20-26).

4

John 17:3

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Did Peter know the real Jesus?

Do we?



5

Luke 14

"27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. 33 So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

6

Peter rejects the Cross (vs.1-11)

Peter's response

"10 Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus."

Peter fights to keep his dream alive.

Jesus' response

"11 Jesus therefore said to Peter, 'Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?'"

Jesus receives the Cross as a gift.

7

Peter rejects Jesus (vs.12-27)

Peter's attitude

"18 . . . and Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself."

Peter's comfort is the issue.

Peter's actions

"17 . . . 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' vs.25-27"

Peter seeks to find comfort in the world.

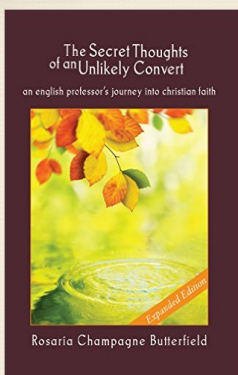
Peter seeks to save his life by rejecting the Cross and Christ.

8

Matthew 16

"24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. 26 For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'"

9



"The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. We each have to lay aside something. I had to ask myself, 'What does that mean for me?'"



Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield
lesbian,
former postmodern, feminist,
English professor

10

Are we "warming ourselves" like Peter?

The world tends to distort the benefits and discount the cost of knowing and following Christ.

The world's agenda:

1. Jesus is instrumental in bringing **worldly blessings**.
2. The costs are to be **minimized or demonized**.

Jesus' agenda:

1. Loneliness is addressed on the far side of **the Cross**.
2. A Cross must be **willingly carried**.

11

Luke 23:43

“And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

Acts 9:16

“I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

12

Common misplaced expectations

- **Entitlement** - Christ suffered so I can reign NOW.
- **Explanation** - It must make sense to me.
- **Faith** - I have a dream and faith.
- **Satanic attacks** - The devil is robbing me of my inheritance.

We can find Scriptures that seem to support each of these.

13

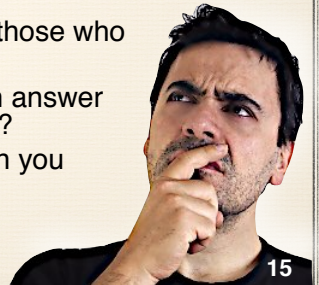
1 Corinthians 11

²⁵ In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. . . . ³³ So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come.”

14

Examine yourself

- Are you following the real Jesus?
- What has being a disciple cost you?
- Have you counted the cost in following Christ?
 - ✓ Do you limit fellowship to those who are just like you?
 - ✓ Do you see yourself as an answer to some one else’s prayer?
 - ✓ How do you respond when you are treated like a servant?
 - ✓ Do you have a sense of entitlement as a disciple?



15

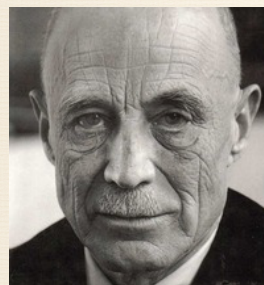
Philippians 3

“7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, . . . ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”

16

H. Richard Niebuhr

(Neo-orthodox Christian theological-ethicists
Yale Divinity School)



“The theology of liberal protestantism was a God without wrath who brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

NOTE: Many conservative protestants are not that different!

17