



SERMON NOTES

February 5, 2023

“Fan or Follower?”

Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:15–16, 27; John 1:5



I. One of History’s Great Mysteries

- A. One of history’s greatest _____ is ‘How did Christianity survive and thrive?’
- B. Jesus of Nazareth actually _____ one of history’s greatest mysteries.
- C. According to scholar Bart Ehrman, Christianity radically _____ the lives of everyone living in the Roman Empire.

II. The Body of Christ

- A. The _____ of the next generation and this generation is in our hands and we have a choice to make.
- B. The experts are saying the _____ in America is dying, and that the pandemic just sped up the decline.
- C. If you are a Jesus follower, you are a part of the _____ of Christ.

III. Engage

- A. Look for ‘come _____ with me’ opportunities by listening for the “three nots.”
 - a. I’m **not** in a church.
 - b. Things are **not** going well.
 - c. I was **not** prepared for that.
- B. _____ in a small group.
- C. _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *February 6-11, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

Most people are fans of Jesus and they like his teachings. Very few people have anything negative to say about Him. However, we are not just called to be fans of Jesus, we are called to be his followers. So, what does it take to be a follower and not just a fan?

Monday: 1 Corinthians 12:20-27

Jesus followers are called to participate in the life and mission of the local church. Paul reminds us that we all play a role in the church like each part of your body plays a role with you. In what stage do you find yourself in terms of being engaged with a local church? What makes you say that?

Passive Consumer |—————| *Engaged Participant*

Tuesday: Matthew 16:13-18

Jesus predicts the launching of the local church and makes the claim that nothing will ever stop it. If it's true the church in America is in decline, what would it take to reverse that trend? Would you say you're currently helping reverse that trend? What makes you say that?

Wednesday: John 4:1-42

After her conversation with Jesus, the Samaritan woman goes back to her village and invites people to "come and see" him. When was the last time you asked someone who does not have a church home to come with you to worship? What happened? Do you have any hesitations in asking someone to come with you? If so, what are they?

Thursday: Hebrews 10:24-25

Christianity is meant to be done in community; it is not a solo activity. The writer of Hebrews reminds us not to neglect meeting with one another so that we can encourage each other. If you are in a group, is it time to consider leading one? Why or why not? If you're not currently in a group, would you consider joining one? If not, what are your hesitations?

Friday: Matthew 5:13-16; James 2:14-19

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to be salt and light in our world. Jesus' brother James reminds us that "faith without works is dead." We are called to live out our faith in the world. Do you volunteer at your local church? Do you volunteer in your community? If so, talk about your experience doing that. If not, what are your hesitations in volunteering?

MOVING FORWARD

Followers of Jesus engage in the life and mission of the local church. Here are three ways you can participate in that: Look for "Come sit with me" opportunities. Listen for the three "nots" and be ready to invite someone (not in church, not going well, not prepared for life circumstances). Participate in a small group and volunteer. If you're grateful for your local church but not engaged, now is the time.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) mysteries, B) predicted, C) altered. IIA) faith, B) church, IIC) Body. IIIA) sit, B) Participate, C) Volunteer.