

Study Guide – Palm Sunday – “Who Are You?”, *from 3-25-3-2018*

Key Scriptures:

- John 5:31-42 Jesus - “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. ...You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. I do not receive honor from men.”
- John 6:27 Jesus - Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.
- John 5:41-44 Jesus - “I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?”
- 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.

Start Talking:

- If you had been at the trial of Jesus, what would you have said or done? How would you have dealt with the mood and danger of the crowd?
- Have you ever had someone that you thought you could trust betray you? How did it make you feel? How did you react?
- Pastor Bobby explained that the elite seek to be respected, the discrete don't want to be rejected. Why are both types so insecure?

Start Thinking:

- Pastor Bobby said, “If we're impressed by man's approval, we'll be depressed by his disapproval.” Give an example of how your

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behavior would be changed if you absolutely did not seek the approval of people.

- Pastor Bobby said the “elite”, religious crown attacks those Jesus is trying to attract. Why are religious people so desperate to put someone down to have the approval of people in the church? Have you ever seen this?

Start Sharing:

- “Discreet” people are afraid of the opinion of others. Can you think of an example when you, or someone you knew, denied what Jesus would have had you say because you were afraid of what someone would think about you?
- How can someone avoid being a people seeker, either desiring to be respected (elite) or in fear of being rejected (discrete)? What will it take?
- Esau sold his birthright to feed his flesh (literally). Can you think of a time that you spontaneously did something to feed your flesh at the cost of your morality and witness of Christ? Share. What bowl of stew were you trading to get?
- Read Matthew 7:3. Pastor Bobby said that we should quit trying to change people or the world, but let God change us. Are you willing to do that?

Start Praying:

“Lord, thank you for showing us that Jesus did not seek the approval of people. Help us to have confidence to seek Your approval only. In Jesus’ Name. Amen”

Start Doing:

- Are you willing to spend enough time in deep, personal prayer that when you interact with the world, you are dedicated to pleasing only God in your daily decisions, including what to say and what to do?

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- In John 6:27, Jesus said “the Father has set His seal on Him (Me).” Has God not also set His seal on you? What does this mean to you? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby, “We won’t know who we are until we know Whose we are.” Do you think of yourself during the day as one who belongs to God? If so, ask yourself, “Is God pleased with me today?” and forget what others think.