

Study Guide
Crowd Control
Pastor Bobby Davis

Key Verses:

The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, “Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel!

John 12:12-13, NLT

It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, (the same crowd) “Look, here is your king!” “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.

John 19:14-15, NLT

These two passages cover the span of one week. In that one week, the people who celebrated Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem went from shouting, “Let Him be glorified!” to, “Let Him be crucified!”

The crowd in the key verses represents culture – culture will always sway in its position.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:10.

What are some of the different “voices” (or “languages”) speaking today?

How do those voices try to sway our focus from our mission as Christians?

As we get closer to the end, we will see people within the church start to sway from the truth of Scripture. When this happens, the Bible tells us that Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats – goats will sway, but sheep will stay.

Sheep stick to the Script (Scriptures).

Read John 10:1-5.

What does Jesus’ voice sound like?

How can we make sure that we are not swayed – that we stay in the herd?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

What does Paul warn Timothy of in this passage?

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

How does Paul urge Timothy to combat the swaying of culture in this passage?

Hebrews 13:8-9 (NLT)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (AMPC)

For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God;

We must not sway – truth is black and white, not grey. However, we must also not hate – it’s just that truth is not up for debate.

Read Acts 20:26-28.

What is the job of the pastor as we fight the pressure to sway?

How do you know if a pastor is being faithful to the Word as they lead you?

Read Acts 20:29-30

How can you make sure that you are not led astray by a false teacher?

How important is it to know your Bible well?

It is important that we are reading and studying the Bible daily so that when we are presented with false doctrine (teaching that has “swayed”), then we will recognize that it does not match the voice of Jesus (the truth of Scripture).

The church also plays a role in our protection against false teachers who have swayed (there is safety in the herd).

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NLT)

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Pastor Bobby shared a map showing the areas in the U.S. where church attendance has declined.

What is the trend in areas where church attendance is declining?

Why is it important that the church continues to find ways to “huddle up”?

What is the significance of small groups according to Hebrews 10:23-25?