Digging Deeper

John 12:9-19

The purpose of this document is to help us take the word beyond our Sunday gathering and to think through the practical implications of the Scriptures and then to be intentional about living the word out.

Connected to Christ

John 11:54-57; 12:9-11

Questions Worth Asking

The tension could be felt in Jerusalem regarding Jesus as the Passover drew near and the crowds were coming into the city. The people wanted to see him and the leaders wanted to arrest him. As the large crowd learned about where Jesus was and what he did for Lazarus, they went to Bethany to go and see for themselves. The two-mile trek to see Jesus and the confirmation of him raising a man from the dead solidified that he was the Messiah. What should have been a joyous occasion for the Jews proved to be problematic for the chief priest and leaders. They decided that Lazarus had to die again. Lazarus was considered guilty by his association with Christ and the impact his life was having on the people's faith. People should come to see Christ by looking at our lives. This will bring about some unpleasant attention from those who hate the One we love, but it will bring many to see just how loved they are.

1. How has your attitude (at work, towards people, etc.) been a conduit or at times been a distraction for others to see the love of the Lord through you?

2. What type of impact did seeing someone living out their faith in our Lord in the face of adversity have on your faith walk with Jesus?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you be a conduit for others to see Jesus...

1. Meditate on the commands God wants us to keep (Mark 12:30-31).
2. Consider the love you have received from the Lord and ways to share that love with others.
3. Identify someone that is intentionally cantankerous towards you (at work, home, your biological family, etc.) and be intentionally loving towards them (Matthew 5:43-48).

Coming to Christ

John 12:12-13, 17-19, 23-26

Questions Worth Asking

The large crowd went out to meet Jesus when he entered into Jerusalem. The reason the crowd came to meet him was because of the sign that he had done, but not because they were ready to commit their lives to the Son of Man. Jesus made it clear that those who come to him, must be willing to take up their cross and follow him. Rather than chase after signs, followers of the Savior must be ready and willing to serve. This would mean lining their lives up with the word of God and following the example of the Lord who came to serve and not to be served. While this would certainly be a challenge for the believer, the Lord promised a great reward for the one that would wholly come. That individual would be honored by God the Father. The reward of coming to Christ exceedingly outweighs the cost of coming to Christ. Signs may draw us in, but it is believing in the Savior that brings us into right relationship with him.

1. What were some of the signs you saw in your life and/or the lives of others that caused you to take your walk with Jesus seriously?

2. What was the moment(s) that compelled you from coming to see and move to the place of trusting the Savior with your life?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you remember that Christ is worth coming to...

1. Think about the way you used to think and/or behave before coming to Jesus.
2. Ponder on how much of a difference the principles of God's truth have changed your life.
3. Mediate on a promise(s) that God has for those who come to Jesus (John 14:2-3; Revelations 21:1-8).

Crucified with Christ

John 12:32-34, 36b-37, 42-43; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 2:20

Questions Worth Asking

Jesus made it clear that he was going to lay down his life. For many in the crowd, the idea of their King being killed wasn't a concept they were willing to accept. They had the idea that the Christ was to conquer, and that clearly didn't mean laying down his life by being lifted up on a cross. This concept caused many to walk away and not trust Christ with their life. There were others that did believe in Jesus, but weren't willing to give up their comfort for him. Their response would have been significantly different if Christ would have overthrown Rome and set up his kingdom on earth. Whether it was because they didn't care to come to Christ or there was a greater care for comfort, there were many who didn't give their all to Jesus. Followers of Christ must willingly present their bodies a living sacrifice and allow the Lord to live his love through them. We must be crucified with Christ. There is no room for us to live for our own agenda and to live out the will of our Savior. We must decide to follow him now or be separated from him for eternity.

1. What are some areas in your life the Holy Spirit revealed that don't line up with what God is calling you to?

2. How do you see these areas impacting the way you live out the love of the Lord in this world?

Steps Worth Taking

Here are some **suggested steps** that will help you take up your cross daily and follow Jesus...

1. **Read and meditate on Galatians 5:16-25**.
2. Examine the areas in your life that don't reflect Spirit-led living.
3. Write out the areas that the Holy Spirit reveals to you.
4. Deny the flesh and follow the Spirit:
    a. Ask for forgiveness;
    b. Confess the things on the list to a brother or sister in the Lord; &
    c. Ask to be held accountable as you intentionally walk in step with the Spirit.