

Message Guide

IMPACT – People Who Met Jesus

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

IMPACT – People Who Met Jesus Part 1 – Andrew John 1:29 – 42

1. Consider what happens when people meet Jesus.
 - a. Some people were led to ... D _____
I _____ C _____
 - b. Some people were led to a ... S _____
P _____ of change
 - c. Some people were led to ... O _____
O _____
 - d. D _____ C _____ their minds and
W _____ A _____
2. Now read and consider John 1:29 – 42
Today we will talk about A _____ who comes into the
story as a D _____ of J _____ the B _____
3. There are 3 elements concerning Andrew.
Read again and consider John 1:35 – 37. What
happened here?

4. What was it about John the Baptist that made it easy for
Andrew to do what he did?

8. Notice that in verse 25 Thomas did not say: I can not believe"; but he said "I WILL NOT believe."

It is possible to make up your mind in advance not to believe, and it seems that is what Thomas had done. We don't really know why Thomas was this way. Perhaps he felt insecure because he had missed out on that first appearance of Jesus to the disciples. I guess we will never know for sure.

9. Thomas wanted physical proof; and that is reasonable when you consider that that is what the other disciples had all had.
Read also 1 John 1:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:3 – 8
From these verses we learn that their belief was based on what they had seen, absorbed and concluded on the basis of the evidence in front of their eyes – and Thomas wanted the same.
But there is a 'but'
10. We cannot seek God on our own terms.
Ultimately we can only know God on HIS terms.
11. The significant part of this verse are the first words, "A week later."
Thomas was left to stew for a week; and we need to learn to not speed through the process of doubt. It was a process that he needed to go through that helped to solidify his final acceptance that Jesus had risen from the dead.

4. There are 4 reasons why Thomas doubted, and these reasons apply to many people still today.

- i **ISOLATION**
- ii **INCREDULITY**
- iii **TEMPERAMENT**
- iv **STUBBORNNESS**

5. Isolation can be a dangerous thing for a Christian. Standing apart from other believers, in isolation, not actively part of a church will leave us vulnerable to doubt. God works among us communally. Read and consider Hebrew 10:25

6. Anything outside of our experience we tend to treat with at least caution, if not incredulity. However in the case of Thomas, he had an advantage in that he had seen first-hand the miracles of Jesus that broke natural laws. In fact, Thomas was the only disciple named at being at Bethany to witness the raising from the dead of Lazarus.

Why is it that while some do not believe, so many others do believe?

There is a revelation to the heart.

7. Thomas seems to have something of a PESSIMISTIC temperament as these scriptures clearly show us. John 11:16; John 14:5; John 20:25b

He seems to look on the bleak side of things, and that can lead to doubting.

5. Although 2 of John the Baptist's disciples immediately followed Jesus, what happened with John's other disciples? Read and consider Matthew 11:2 - 3

6. What would be the danger if there was still a "John the Baptist" in your life?
How would that be manifest in your life?

7. Examples of a 'John the Baptist' in your life could be any of the following.

- a. A P _____ D _____
- b. A P _____
- c. A D _____
- d. M _____
- e. A V _____ of the B _____

8. For the second element please read again and consider John 1:37 – 40.
What happened here?

9. When Jesus asked “What do you want?” what was it that Andrew wanted?
-
-

10. Read and consider John 1:41 – 42
What happened here in this third element of our study of Andrew?

Andrew F _____ his brother and he B _____ him to
J _____

Final Thoughts

Any preacher who draws people to himself,
or any church that draws people to itself,
is probably hindering the gospel, not helping it.

Our task is to be like Andrew
and to **bring people to Christ.**

Leader’s Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 10 – Doubting Thomas John 20:19 – 29

1. To be fair to Thomas, he was not the only disciple who initially doubted that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead. Read Matthew 28:16 & 17.

And remember what John the Baptist had said? “Are you really the Christ or should we look for someone else?”

The disciples did not believe reports that Jesus had risen from the dead. Read Luke 24:11

After Peter and John had gone to the tomb and discovered that it was indeed empty, they still did not know for sure what had happened to the body of Jesus.

With the doors of the room they were in locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus suddenly appeared to them.

2. The problem was that Thomas was not there with them; and when he later arrived – obviously after Jesus had gone – Thomas did not believe what the other disciples told him, and he spoke those familiar words that we find in John 20:25 [please read]
3. There are varying opinions on that question; but in this study we are going to look at 3 things from this story about Thomas which we trust will be helpful.

- b. She accepts **HUMILIATION**.
- she wiped His feet with her hair in a room full of men.
- c. She gave **SACRIFICIALLY**.
- the perfume was very costly – one year’s wages – but she probably didn’t consider that because what she did was the natural response of her heart.
- d. She acted **PROPHETICALLY**.
- Mary had no illusions about Jesus. She knew He was going to die. Read what Jesus Himself had to say about Mary in Mark 14:8 – 9.
5. It is not just Judas who was incensed by this extravagance, but John, the writer of this Gospel, does single out Judas as the ringleader. At the same time he takes the opportunity to let us know that Judas was known by them to be a thief.
- Judas would not have started out a thief. He had been appointed the task of treasurer because he was good with money and because they had trusted him. Judas was obviously gifted in the area of finances, but somewhere along the line he became corrupt.
- Every time Judas is mentioned in the gospels, there is corruption of some kind taking place.
6. The answer is a resounding NO to both of those assertions.
Dealing with Jesus will always inevitably lead to caring for the poor. Read and consider Matthew 22:37.

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 2 – Simon John 1:35 – 42

- At the start of this message Charles lists 6 fear that most Christians have concerning personal Evangelism. How many of these can you remember?

- To recap our previous lesson: what were the three things that Andrew did?
 - He F _____ John the Baptist.
 - He F _____ after Jesus.
 - He F _____ his brother Simon
- We continue by looking today at SIMON.
Read and consider John 1:35 – 42
- The first of 2 points from this text is that – Simon needed to be F _____
God has one means of reaching our world – and that is through P _____
- Read and consider Roman 10:13 – 15. What would you call what is happening here?
Can you pick out the key words?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus

Part 9 – Mary Anointing Jesus at Bethany

John 12:1 – 8

6. Read and consider Mark 16:15. What is the responsibility of the church both
C _____ and I _____ ?
- No one else W ___ do it!
No one else C ___ do it!
7. We see here that John the Baptist pointed Andrew to Jesus; Andrew pointed Simon to Jesus; Jesus found Philip; then Philip points Nathanael to Jesus.
- What we are seeing here is E _____ by
M _____, not by A _____
8. What is the essential difference between evangelism by addition to evangelism by multiplication?
- Addition is when certain K ___ P _____ do evangelism.
Multiplication is when E _____ is involved.

1. To set the scene: this took place in the week that Jesus was crucified.
During a meal given in Jesus' honor, Martha served [as she always seemed to be doing]; Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead, was just reclining at the table; Judas Iscariot, who was to betray Jesus, was obviously there; and Mary shocked everyone by using a very expensive perfume to wash the feet of Jesus and then dry His feet with her hair.
2. a. The **ACTION** of **MARY**. verse 3
b. The **REACTION** of **JUDAS**. verses 4 – 6
c. The **CORRECTION** of **JESUS** verses 7 – 8
3. a. Mary's brother Lazarus had died in the last chapter, and although Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, Mary's sister Martha had made a fuss that after Lazarus died his body stunk.

b. Although Jesus had forewarned his disciples that he was going to die (read Matthew 16:21) no-one other than Mary had taken Him seriously. But Mary knew!
4. What was Mary's disposition towards Jesus/God?
 - a. She acted **HUMBLY**.
- she anointed His feet, not His head.

It was not without reason that it specifies that the older ones left first.

Perhaps Jesus had written down the names of the older men first; or perhaps the older ones were the first to realize that Jesus had turned their trap around and trapped them.

They had wanted to expose Jesus, but He had exposed them.

9. Jesus addresses her – PAST “.....neither do I condemn you.”
and her FUTURE “..... Go now, and leave your life of sin.”

Jesus never deals with our past without dealing with our future.

He has made provision for deliverance from past guilt, and also for future deliverance.

Final Thoughts

In that which we have studied today
we see that the Bible teaches us the principle of
EACH ONE REACH ONE
and then
THE NEXT ONE REACH ONE.

**EVANGELISM BY MULTIPLICATION
as an individual and as corporate responsibility.**

So the questions we must honestly ask ourselves are –

Who are you FINDING?
Who are you SEEKING TO BRING TO CHRIST?
Who are you BRINGING TO CHURCH to hear the gospel?
Who are you considering to invite to this HOME
FELLOWSHIP group?
Who are you giving a suitable CHRISTIAN BOOK to?
Who are you PRAYING FOR?

Or are you JUST NOT INVOLVED?

Message Guide & Questions

Impact - People Who Met Jesus Part 3 – Philip John 1: 43 – 44

1. In John 1 there is a lot of ‘finding’ going on (see verses 41, 43 & 45). What does that presume?

2. Read and consider Matthew 10:6; Matthew 18:14; and Luke 19:10

3. What does being ‘lost’ signify? What does being ‘lost’ provoke?

4. Look again at verses 43 & 45.
Can you see something interesting and significant in these 2 verses?

There is a S _____ S _____ who finds the
S _____ and there is a S _____
S _____ who finds the S _____

5. Read and consider Mathew 7:7 – 8; and Jeremiah 29:13 – 14. What do these verses signify?

6. Let’s take a look then at “Philip finding Jesus”
How does a person seek God? Where do they look?

5. According to the Mosaic Law both are responsible; the woman is not exonerated in any way, but the onus of responsibility is clearly on the man. Jewish society had moved away from the Law of Moses, and in doing so it had devalued women. The Pharisees have re-read scripture in the light of their own prejudices.

So in this case the woman is certainly in the wrong, but so are the Scribes and Pharisees who brought her to Jesus.

6. Jewish Law called for the stoning of adulterers, whereas Roman Law did not require death for adulterers. The Pharisees wanted to discredit Jesus and trap Him in a dilemma, that being
Is Jesus going to offend the Law of Moses
OR is He going to offend the Laws of Rome?

7. The big question is, what on earth did Jesus write on the ground that caused these men – bitter men intent on trapping Jesus – to walk timidly away?
And why did the older ones leave first?
We can only speculate on that, but here is a suggestion

8. Could this event in John 8 be the fulfillment of that prophetic word in Jeremiah 17?

These men were Pharisees who had set out to serve God, but they had become judgmental, arrogant and hard.

Perhaps Jesus was writing down the names of the Pharisees and Scribes that were there trying to trap Him by manipulating the Law of Moses in accusing the woman in that way.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus

Part 8 – A Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery

John 8:1 – 11

1. This is such an exciting and dramatic incident. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be there and see the Pharisees one by one slink embarrassedly away until only Jesus and the women were left?
2. For the purpose of this study we will divide it into 4 sections.
 - a. The TROUBLE. v.3 – 5
 - b. The TRAP. v.6
 - c. The TRIAL. v.7 – 9
 - d. The TRUTH. v.10 - 11
3. A 'party atmosphere' would have prevailed in that place.
 - Excitement was high.
 - Inhibitions were low.
 - People's guard is down.
 - Opportunities are there.
 - Flirting starts, and then grows.
 - A ripe context for acts of sexual immorality.
4. It 'takes two to tango', and where was the man? The Pharisees have let him go and placed the onus of this onto the woman, assuming that she was responsible.

Can you see the answer there in verse 45?

-
-
7. As a warning, read and consider 2 Corinthians 11:4
 8. So, who is the REAL Jesus, the REAL Spirit and the REAL Gospel?
Where do you find Him?

 9. Philip was S _____; he was looking in the R _____
P _____; and so he R _____ H ____ when he found Him.

 10. Read and consider John 1:43; Luke 19:10; then John 1:48 What do these verses tell us about Jesus?

 11. Where is Jesus seeking the lost?
He is seeking among the R _____
Read and consider Isaiah 65:1 – 3a

He is seeking among the R _____
Read and consider Matthew 11:21 – 22

He is seeking among the R _____
Read and consider 2 Chronicles 16:9a

Final Thoughts

If you are genuinely looking for God – looking for Jesus – then look for Him where He may be found - in the scriptures.

Philip found Jesus,
not because he was looking for Him through the lens of his
own need
or the lens of popular culture;
but rather,
because he was looking for Jesus through the lens of
SCRIPTURE.

Remember that Jesus is not passive,
just waiting to be found.
He is a Seeking Saviour,
ever on the lookout for those who are lost.

went out immediately to witness – to tell others about Him. And the consequence of that was that many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of her testimony.

In verse 19 she may have displayed a little cynicism here, but she was probably very devout in her worship, probably climbing the mountain every Saturday morning.

She did the right things, said the right things, but it was all boring to her. It clearly did not satisfy her.

Can you think of anything more boring than worshipping a God you do not know?

Compare that with the excitement of connecting with a God whom you DO know!

6. Notice that this verse says, “I know WHOM I have believed” not WHAT.

Worship is our response to our personal knowledge of God.

The important thing is not where or how you worship, but WHO we worship, and how REAL He is to you.

7. vi **She had not known there was something great to live for.**

Now the ‘penny has dropped’, and what did she do? She left her water jar [her bucket]. Remember, it was the bucket that was so important to her earlier, but now she just drops it.

When a person is born again the things that were so important before just don’t matter anymore; and things that did not matter before, suddenly do.

That is why salvation is called ‘conversion’ everything changes!

8. vii **She had not known the potential of her own life.**

The immediate effect of realizing who Jesus was, was that she wanted other people to know. As a result, she

Message Guide & Questions

Impact - People Who Met Jesus

Part 4 – Nathanael

John 1:43 – 51

1. In this series of looking at ‘people who met Jesus’, can you remember whom we have looked at so far? ?

2. What typified these people’s encounter with Jesus? ?

3. Today we will focus on Nathanael.
We learn 3 things from what Jesus said to him.
 - a. I know W __ you are. John 1:47
 - b. I know W ___ you are. John 1:48
 - c. I know W ___ you are. John 1:50
4. First read and consider John 1:47, and then go back and read and consider John 1:45 & 46
 - a. What did Jesus say concerning Nathanael?
 - b. What did Nathanael initially say about Jesus?
 - c. What does this say about Nathanael?
 - d. How does that fit into what Jesus said about Nathanael?

5. In our society today which do you think has the biggest value in our culture

Honesty or Political Correctness?

6. Read and consider Paul's comments in Romans 7:8 – 9. Do you think that most Christians today would be as honest about themselves as Paul was about himself?
-
7. Look again at, and consider, verse 48
8. Read and carefully consider 2 Chronicles 16:9a. What specifically is God looking for?
9. Finally, read again and consider John 1:50 – 51

Final Thoughts

The measure by which we are honest about our own need, will determine the measure by which we will acknowledge our need to look to Him for full salvation.

Jesus is the link between Heaven and Earth;
He is the bond of unity between God and Humanity.

When He knows WHO you are - and you respond in honesty

....

When He knows WHERE you are – and you respond in
homage

Then you will know WHAT He will make of you – and you
respond in hope.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 7 – Woman of Samaria – Part 2 John 4:13 – 26 & 28 – 30

1.
 - a. She didn't know God had a gift to give to her.
 - b. She didn't know WHO Jesus was.
 - c. She didn't know it was possible to be completely satisfied.
2. Jesus was talking on a spiritual level, but the woman was thinking on a physical level.
3. Answer: her bucket. She was preoccupied with her bucket that she had to carry to the well each day. When filled with water it would have been very heavy. Also, early in her conversation with Jesus she noticed that He did not have a bucket. A bucket was a very important implement in her life.
4. iv **She did not know how much Jesus knew about her.**

He knew everything. He knew her history, her failures, and her weaknesses.
He knows all about us too. Read Hebrew 4:13

There comes a moment in God's work in our lives when we must be confronted with the truth about our sin – because our sin is our problem.
Our problems are not material, ethical or psychological – those are the symptoms - but the problem is SIN.
5. v. **She did not know what she worshipped.**

Jesus recognized in this woman a thirst for something she did not have.

Five marriages [and now living in sin with another man] had not satisfied her thirst.

What was that thirst? It was for love, acceptances, meaning in her life.

It is important to note that Jesus did not condemn her for her sin; but he looked beyond the wrong things she was doing; saw her need; and offered her the gift of eternal life.

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 5 – Nicodemus John 3:1 – 17

1. Today we look at NICODEMUS. Read and consider John 3:1 – 17
Did you know that Nicodemus was a P _____, and actually a member of the S _____ C _____
2. What are some of the rules that Nicodemus would have been careful to observe?
 - a. He would be careful about the C _____ he kept.
 - b. He would be careful about the F ____ he ate.
 - c. He would be careful about the P _____ he went.
 - d. He would be careful about the C _____ he wore.
3. Although Nicodemus was a highly respected person and he rigidly keep all the rules, he was acutely aware that something was wrong – something was missing. What was that?

4. When Nicodemus met Jesus he would have perceived 4 things that would have blown him away [so to speak].
 - a. Jesus had no C _____

- B. Jesus had no Q _____
- c. Jesus had no O _____ P _____
- d. But Nicodemus recognized that Jesus evidently had
G __
5. There are 3 parts to this story, and the first one we will look at is that –
- a. **There is an issue that Nicodemus is convinced of.**
What is it?
Read and consider John 3:1 – 2?
-
-
6. This leads Nicodemus to the second part, which is
- b. **Nicodemus is confronted with an imperative.**
Read what Jesus said in John 3:3
7. Read and consider John 3:4
Was the response of Nicodemus C _____ or
G _____ ?
8. Read again and consider John 3:5 – 7
9. And this draws Nicodemus to the third part of this story;
- c. **Nicodemus is challenged by an Invitation from Jesus**
- Jesus refers to an incident that Nicodemus would have been familiar with.
Read and consider John 3:14 – 15

Read also Romans 6:23.

4. a. There is confusion as to **WHAT** it is.
b. There is confusion as to **WHY** we need it.
c. There is confusion as to **HOW** to get it.
5. According to these verses 'eternal life' is a **present-day experience** that begins when we are born again and the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. Read also John 17:3
6. In the Bible 'perishing' is often set in contrast to 'eternal life'.
Read 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:3
We are all naturally in the process of perishing, which, if not changed will culminate in **eternal separation** from God.
7. **It is a GIFT from God.**
What do you do when someone offers you a gift? You reach out your empty hand and take it!
- When God has gifts like that to give away, that meet the deepest needs of our lives, we ought to be reaching out and taking it, and saying 'Thank You'.
8. ii **She did not know WHO Jesus was**
9. Jesus did not answer her question, but He does pick up on the comparison that she has made between Himself and Jacob; between the water He is offering and the water of Jacobs well.
10. iii **She did not know it was possible to be completely satisfied.**

Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 6 – Woman of Samaria – Part 1 John 4:1 – 15

1. This story of the Woman of Samaria is an intriguing one, and Charles splits this into 'seven things she did not know'; and correspondingly, seven things that many people today don't know – but need to know. Three of these will be covered today, and then the rest in our next study.
2. A thousand years before this story, Israel had been divided into 2 countries:
 Judah in the south, with its capital Jerusalem.
 Israel in the north, with its capital Samaria.

 In 722 BC the Assyrians invaded Israel and took most of the people into exile. A few people were left to look after the land, and there were also Assyrians soldier left to guard them. Inter-breeding took place between the Assyrian soldiers and the remnant of Israel that were left behind. The off-spring of this inter-breeding were neither Israelis nor Assyrian, so they were named Samaritans, after the capital city Samaria.

 Samaritans were rejected by Jews as being unclean. The "Good Samaritan" - a story we are all familiar with – came from this same tribe despised by the Jews.
3. i **She did not know that God had a gift to give away to her.**

Final Thoughts

In essence, Jesus was saying to Nicodemus,
 "What you see in me, Nicodemus, is absolutely true.
 These miracles are the activity of God My Father in Me and
 through Me;
 but you must understand something very important:
 this has also to become true of you."

Being 'born again' is not 'turning over a new leaf';
 it is receiving a 'new life'.

Is the 'wind of the Spirit' blowing around your heart right
 now?

Is God drawing you to Himself?

You need to come in confession of your sin and need.

Thank Him for dying in your place.

Invite Him to impart to you Spiritual Life – be Born Again.

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 6 – Woman of Samaria – Part 1 John 4:1 – 15

1. Read and consider John 4:1 – 15
2. Discuss what you already know concerning the relationship between Jews and Samaritans.
Why was the woman surprised [vs. 9] when Jesus asked her to draw water for him?

3. So, what was the first thing that this woman of Samaria did not know?
Read again and consider John 4:10

4. This is a fantastic gift being offered, but there are 3 areas of confusion about 'eternal life'
 - a. There is confusion as to W __ __ it is.
 - b. There is confusion as to W __ __ we need it.
 - c. There is confusion as to H __ __ to get it.
5. Read and consider John 3:36a and John 5:24
What do these verses tell you about when eternal life begins?

5. Nicodemus is convinced that something was happening that could not be explained other than the fact that 'God was with Jesus'.
The only explanation for the activity of Jesus was His Father in Him. Read John 14:10 – 11

Jesus then challenged Nicodemus with this statement, "These miracles are the activity of God My Father in Me and through Me; but you must understand something very important: this has also to become true of you.

6. In effect, Jesus was saying to Nicodemus,
 - a. "You may be a **leader** among the Jews"
 - b. "You may have **studied** about God"
 - c. "You may have **taught** about God"
 - d. "You may have **talked** about the 'Kingdom of God'"
..... but you will never see it, experience it or know it unless you are **born again.**

What Jesus was saying here was something that Nicodemus could not understand.

7. Was the response of Nicodemus **CYNICAL** or **GENUINE**?
It doesn't really matter, because Nicodemus was right this being 'born again' is not a physical thing.
8. We have become accustomed in our culture to the expression 'born again' [it has been sadly hijacked into applications other than spiritual birth], but to be fair to Nicodemus this was the first time he had heard of it.
9. So Jesus has drawn Nicodemus in to a place where he must make a decision.
And this is what Jesus is doing to you and me and others still today.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 5 – Nicodemus John 3:1 – 17

1. Did you know that Nicodemus was a **PHARISEE**, and actually a member of the **SANHEDRIN COUNCIL**.
This council was the highest Jewish Authority permitted by the Romans, and as such Nicodemus would have been highly respected. To maintain his exalted position he would have daily kept a rigid set of rules.
2.
 - a. He would be careful about the **COMPANY** he kept.
 - b. He would be careful about the **FOOD** he ate.
 - c. He would be careful about the **PLACES** he went.
 - d. He would be careful about the **CLOTHES** he wore.
3. Nicodemus was looking for God – but he had not found God.
His religion was all about externals, rules, regulations and traditions ...and his heart was empty. Does this sound familiar?
4.
 - a. Jesus had no **CREDENTIALS**.
 - B. Jesus had no **QUALIFICATIONS**.
 - c. Jesus had no **OFFICIAL POSITION**.
 - d. But Nicodemus recognized that Jesus evidently had **GOD**.

-
-
6. So, why do we need 'eternal life'? Read John 3:16

 7. Than how do we obtain 'eternal life?'

 8. What is the second thing that this woman of Samaria did not know?
Read again and consider John 4:10

 9. Read again and consider John 4:12
 10. For the third thing that this woman of Samaria did not know, read again and consider verse 13.

Final Thoughts

People will often pursue 'wrong things' in their search for
'right things'.

Understanding this, Jesus does not criticize people in their
sin,

but He follows the journey that has led them into sin to its
ultimate end,

which is usually a search for Himself.

Jesus said He did not come to judge the world, but to save it!

Every one of us is either in the process of perishing,

5. It seems that in our efforts to bend over backwards to be politically correct, honesty and truth have become victims.

We are not talking about being insensitive; but some 'political correctness has become silly. A few examples are –

- a. A short person must now be referred to as 'vertically challenged',
- b. Someone with a big nose nasally gifted.
- c. A bald person has a 'comb free head'.

Silly isn't it!

Nathanael would have been in big trouble if he were around today; but his inclusion in the story is not just incidental information. Nathanael was vital to the story because **honesty is important**.

6. In the 'political correct' climate in which we live the popular view is that nothing is 'wrong' or 'bad'. We don't 'sin'; we just make 'poor choices'.
7. God knew where Nathanael was because God was watching. In the Bibles it speaks 88 times of 'the eyes of the Lord' looking and seeing. Look up a few of these examples – Genesis 6:8; Deuteronomy 12:28; Deuteronomy 17:2; and 1 Peter 3:12
8. God is looking for 'hearts' that are 'perfect towards Him' Consider exactly what you think that means.
9. God knew WHAT Nathanael was, and what he would become.

5. For the fifth thing that this woman did not know read and consider John 4:19 - 21
6. Do YOU know **WHO** you worship? Read 2 Timothy 1:12
7. What was this sixth thing this Samaritan woman had not known? Read vs. 28 and vs. 29

8. And what was the seventh thing that this woman had not known? Read verse 39a.

8. He is the One who occupies the **whole scripture**. In this case Philip found Jesus in the Law (read Galatians 3:24) and in the prophets in that Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy.
9. Philip was **SEEKING**; he was looking in the **RIGHT PLACE**; and he **RECOGNIZED HIM** when he found Him.
10. Jesus is not passive, just waiting to be found. He is a 'seeking Savior' always on the lookout for the lost
11. He is seeking among the **RESISTANT**
Read and consider Isaiah 65:1 – 3a

He is seeking amongst the **REBELLIOUS**
Read and consider Matthew 11:21 – 22

He is seeking amongst the **RESPONSIVE**
Read and consider 2 Chronicles 16:9a

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact - People Who Met Jesus

Part 3 – Philip

John 1: 43 – 44

1. That which is 'found' must have been 'lost'
 2. Jesus often spoke of people as being 'lost'
 3. What does being 'lost' signify? To be 'lost' is to be 'wanted'.
To be 'lost' provokes 'seeking' and seeking leads to 'finding'
 4. Who is doing the 'finding' here?
Jesus found Philip and Philip found Jesus. In other words
- There is a **SEEKING SAVIOUR** who finds the **SINNER** and there is a **SEEKING SINNER** who finds the **SAVIOUR**
5. These verses signify that ...
No one can ever claim that they want to find God, but can't.
 6. Philip had been looking **in the scriptures** by reading Moses and the prophets. He recognized Jesus because he found Him in the scriptures.
 7. We are warned not to be seeking an 'existential' Jesus – that is a Jesus who is convenient, plugs into our needs and provides what we want.
We are warned against receiving a different Jesus, with a different Spirit and a different Gospel.

Final Thoughts

When trying to talk to people about spiritual things they will often only be thinking about physical and materials things.
That is normal as they live in a physical and material world – that is what they relate to.

The danger, however, is that such people subtly attempt to change the Gospel to be about material benefits
or about health matters,
or they try to turn the Bible into a psychological textbook or a book on ethical instruction,
but detach it from its spiritual content.

However, when a person is born again the things that were so important before just don't matter anymore;
and things that did not matter before, suddenly do.
That is why salvation is called 'conversion' ... everything changes!

Jesus did not come to 'patch up the old order',
but rather to create something new.
He doesn't just make the old life run better;
He replaces it with new life.
The Samaritan woman at the well is a perfect example of this.

What about you!

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 8 – A Woman Caught in the Act of Adultery John 8:1 – 11

1. Read and consider John 8:1 – 11
2. For the purpose of this study we will divide it into 4 sections.
 - a. The T _____ vs. 3 – 5
 - b. The T ____ vs. 6
 - c. The T _____ vs. 7 – 9
 - d. The T _____ vs. 10 - 11
3. **So what was “The Trouble”?**
This event took place immediately after the Feast of Tabernacles. There was lots of merry-making, eating and drinking. What kind of atmosphere did this create?

4. This woman was dragged before Jesus, probably semi-clothed as she was ‘caught in the act’; ashamed; embarrassed; humiliated; condemned. But something was missing. What was missing?

5. The Pharisees cited Mosaic Law; but just what does the Law of Moses say about such situations?
Read and consider Leviticus 20:10 – 12 and Deuteronomy 22:22 – 27.

*And how can they **BELIEVE** in the one of whom they have not **HEARD**?*

*And how can they hear without someone **PREACHING** to them?*

*And how can they **PREACH** unless they are **SENT**?*

6. This is the responsibility of the church both **CORPORATELY** and **INDIVIDUALLY** ?

No one else **WILL** do it!

No one else **CAN** do it!

It is true we are not all evangelists, but we are all witnesses.

7. What we are seeing here is **EVANGELISM** by **MULTIPLICATION**, not by **ADDITION**.
8. Addition is when certain **KEY PEOPLE** do evangelism. Multiplication is when **EVERYONE** is involved.

This would be a good point at which to stop and take a good look at ourselves.

Please go once again to the Final Thoughts.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 2 – Simon John 1:35 – 42

1.
 - a. We don't know who to talk to.
 - b. We don't know what to say.
 - c. We don't think we can answer their questions.
 - d. We don't know if they are going to believe us anyway.
 - e. They will probably think I am a crank / nut case.
 - f. It's not my gift.

If we are truthful, most of us think this way!
2.
 - a. He **FORSOOK** John the Baptist.
 - b. He **FOLLOWED** after Jesus.
 - c. He **FOUND** his brother Simon.
3. There will be 2 points that we will make from this text.
4. The first of 2 points from this text is that – Simon needed to be **FOUND**.
God has one means of reaching our world – and that is through **PEOPLE**.
5. What is happening here is a CHAIN OF EVENTS.
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link; and the links in this chain are the key words here in Romans 10:13 - 15

*Everyone who **CALLS** on the name of the Lord will be **SAVED**.*

*How, then, can they **CALL** on the one they have not **BELIEVED IN**?*

-
-
6. In verse 6 we know that the reason for trying to trap Jesus was so that they would have a basis to accuse Him**but what was “The Trap”?**
-
-

7. This brings us to the most intriguing part of this incident – **The Trial**.
Read again and consider John 8:7 – 9
 8. A suggestion of what happened when Jesus wrote on the ground.
Read first John 8:37, then Jeremiah 17:13
 9. So now we come to ‘**The Truth**’
Read again and consider John 8:10 – 11. What are the two things that Jesus addresses here?
-
-

Final Thoughts

Jesus was not being soft on sin here;
but there is something important that we need to see!
Jesus never says to people,
“Come over to my side and I will help you.”
Instead He goes over to their side and meets them!

You do not have to smarten up and make yourself respectful
first.

When Jesus meets people on their side, in their sin,
and they welcome Him there,
He forgives, and in doing so He equips them to live.

Can you see yourself in this story?

Are you in the crowd holding the rocks?
Maybe a bitter older person or a judgmental young person?
Willing to condemn, but not to help, love and restore.

Are you like the women, but perhaps your sin is hidden
and has not yet been exposed.
There is forgiveness, but you have to break with it and sin no
more.

Will you bring it to Jesus?
He is the friend of sinners.
He is YOUR friend!

8. In these verses we see that ‘Andrew followed after Jesus’. He made the break from John the Baptist and followed Jesus. Referring back to # 7 above, are there some things listed there from which you need to make a break and follow after Jesus, and Jesus alone?
9. Andrew wanted to know where Jesus was staying & where He came from. It was a profound question for which Andrew would have to wait 3 years before he found the real answer.
10. What happened here in this third element of our study of Andrew?
Andrew ‘**found**’ his brother; and he **brought** him to **Jesus**.

His message was “Behold the Lamb. He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John the Baptist message and attitude made it easy and logical for Andrew to leave and follow Jesus.

5. Evidently there was some confusion as to whether or nor Jesus really was the Messiah. It is fascinating that although John the Baptist’s ministry was all about Jesus, only two of John’s disciples had no doubts and left immediately to follow Jesus. The rest of John the Baptist’s disciples remained with John.
6. A ‘John the Baptist’ in your life would be described as ‘something good, but you have stopped there, and not gone on to Jesus’.
7. Examples of a ‘John the Baptist’ in your life could be any of the following.
 - a. A **particular Denomination**.
 - b. A **Preacher** – You become defined by only what he says.
 - c. A **Doctrine** against which you measure everything.
 - d. **Music** – a certain kind, by which you judge the church.
 - e. A **Version of the Bible** that you think is the only version that should be used.

All of these things cause you to not relate to a living Jesus, only to secondary things; and this is what happened to the disciples of John the Baptist who did not leave him to follow Jesus.

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 9 – Mary Anointing Jesus at Bethany John 12:1 – 8

1. Read and consider John 12:1 - 8
2. Against this backdrop we will look at 3 events.
 - a. The A _____ of M ____
 - b. The R _____ of J _____
 - c. The C _____ of J _____
3. Concerning the **Action of Mary** there are two things to consider.
Do you know what they are?

4. What was Mary’s disposition towards Jesus/God?
 - a. She acted H _____
 - b. She accepts H _____
 - c. She gave S _____
 - d. She acted P _____
5. Let’s now look at the **Reaction of Judas**.
Read Mark 14:4 and Matthew 6:8. What do we learn from this?

6. Finally we come to the **Correction of Jesus**.

Read again and consider John 12:7 – 8
Is verse 8 an endorsement of poverty, or an encouragement to do nothing about poverty?

Final Thoughts

There is a big mistake about Christian truth
in that we assume understanding derives from how much we
know.

But that is not true.

Spiritual understanding does not derive from our 'knowledge
about God',
but from our disposition towards God.

Behind our giftedness/skill lies our character.

When our character

– and so our disposition towards God –
becomes corrupt, so our conduct will become corrupt.

Our relationship towards Jesus,
and the needs of the world are PARALLEL.
Judas tries to make them CONTRADICTIONARY.

The fact is :

The more extravagant our love for Jesus,
the more extravagant will be our love for other people.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

IMPACT – People Who Met Jesus Part 1 – Andrew John 1:29 – 42

1. When people met Jesus.....
 - a. Some people were led to
Dramatic Immediate Change.
Examples – Nicodemus, Woman of Samaria
 - b. Some people were led to a
Slow Process of change.
Example – Simon Peter
 - c. Some people were led to
Outright Opposition.
Example - Pharisees
 - d. **Disciples Changed** their minds and **Walked Away.** Read John 6:66
2. Today we will talk about **ANDREW** who comes into the story as a **Disciple of John the Baptist.**
3. In these verses we see that Andrew – a disciple of John the Baptist – forsook John the Baptist and followed Jesus
4. John the Baptist had made himself completely **DISPENSABLE.**
He was clear that his task was to point people to Jesus.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Message Guide & Questions

Impact – People Who Met Jesus Part 10 – Doubting Thomas John 20:19 – 29

1. In this last message of the 10 part series "**Impact – People Who Met Jesus**" we are going to look at **Thomas**, who is perhaps a little unfairly called 'Doubting Thomas'.
Please read and consider John 20:19 - 29
2. When Jesus first appeared to the disciples and He showed them His hands and side, of course they believed and they were overjoyed; but there was one problem. What was that problem?

3. Was it unreasonable for Thomas to have doubts?

4. a. **The Cause of his doubt.**

We are going to look at 4 reasons why Thomas doubted, and these reasons apply to many people still today.

- i I _____
- ii I _____
- iii T _____
- iv S _____

5. **Isolation** - read and consider John 20:24
6. **Incredulity** – read and consider Acts 17:32 & 34a
7. Thomas's **Temperament** - read and consider John 11:16; John 14:5; John 20:25b
8. Finally, Thomas's **Stubbornness** caused him to not believe.
Read John 20:25, paying special attention to the last five words of that verse.
9. Having looked at the possible cause for Thomas's doubt, now lets look at :
 - b. The Conditions for his doubt.**

Refer again to verse 25.
10. So what is this 'but'? Read and consider 1 Corinthians 1:22 - 25

11. Finally we come to ;
 - c. The Collapse of his doubt.**

Read and consider John 20:26.
What is the significant part of this verse?

Final Thoughts

Dealing with doubt can sometimes be difficult;
but doubt is not always an enemy,
it is sometimes a friend.
It is the process by which we arrive at conviction.
Indeed, Jude vs. 22 actually says,
"Be merciful to those who doubt."

Doubt is good when it leads to enquiry and searching;
but it is bad when it is an excuse to avoid facing the truth.

**Honest doubters are in a better position than unthinking believers;
because they are more likely to experience true spiritual reality.**