

Thursday, June 27

Jesus viewed the greatest commandment as “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” He continued, “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Mark 12)

How are all the rules in the Bible summed up in these two “commandments?” Write your thoughts here.

Friday, June 28

Hospitality and compassion played a very important part in the society in which Jesus lived. To offer even a cold cup of water was a tremendous blessing. Think about your commitment to Christ and the church – how does hospitality and compassion reflect Christ in our community? What roles to these attributes of our faith play in our evangelistic and outreach ministries?

Think about the importance of relationships and offering hospitality and compassion. Pray for insight to better share hospitality and compassion with others. What a difference this makes in our lives and in the lives of others! Think about these concepts of hospitality and compassion and write your reflections here.

Message Notes – June 23, 2024

*Living the Bible - Following the Faith**

- I. Rules should make _____.
 - A. Rules can be confusing and frankly, _____.
 - B. Imagine trying to literally follow all the rules in the _____! Do you think that is even possible?
 - C. Author, A.J. Jacobs, decided to give it a try committing himself and, by extension, his family and friends, to a yearlong experiment in living the Bible _____.

- II. Jacobs read through the Bible for four straight weeks, five hours a day, and compiled a list of “every rule, every _____, every suggestion, every nugget of advice” he found in both the Old and New Testaments.
 - A. When he finished, he had a list that ran 72 pages with more than _____ rules.
 - B. One of the more interesting observations Jacobs makes in the book is while many religious literalists scoff at the idea of a “_____” style of religion — picking and choosing what rules to follow and what to leave out — the truth is that there’s really no such thing as a _____ biblical literalist.
 - C. For Jacobs, the most important lesson was this: “There’s nothing wrong with _____.”
 - D. For many, this is where Jacobs’ book begins to blur the line between musing and meddling – and the issue is biblical _____.

- III. More important than Biblical literacy, as Christians we’ve been given a _____ of thought and behavior

* Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42 and Romans 6:12-23

that transcends written rules. We have been given _____.

- A. If we really want to know how to view all the rules in the Bible perhaps we should view them as _____ did.
- B. When it comes to living Biblically and try to follow all the rules in our scriptures, we might want to remember that Jesus condensed all those rules into just _____.
 - 1. Now mind you, I'm not saying that Jesus' two rule condensed version of living our faith is _____.
 - 2. I am saying that it's not _____.

- IV. Living our lives as followers of Jesus Christ is about _____ rather than rules and Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel gives us two suggestions on the nature of our _____.
 - A. First is _____. Jesus said that showing _____ results in rewards for those who model his life.
 - B. The second indicator of a life live by Jesus' example is _____.

Study Guide

This study guide is designed for you to daily, throughout this next week, consider the lessons of today's message and delve further into scripture that will enhance your growth as a Christian.

Monday, June 24

A.J. Jacobs came up with 700 rules to follow in his year of living Biblically. While he decided upfront that he couldn't follow all of them, the rules he did follow changed his life for a year. How many rules do you think you could follow?

What's the purpose of having rules? How do rules shape your faith? Write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, June 25

When it comes to following Biblical rules and guidelines, A.J. Jacobs wrote, "There's nothing wrong with choosing." Do you think it is right to pick and choose certain rules and guidelines in the Bible to follow? How does this idea reflect your understanding of Biblical authority?

When you consider our scriptures, what rules do you believe we should follow – all, most, or just some of them? How does your understanding of the Bible affect your daily living? Pray for wisdom when considering the authority of scripture in your life and write your reflections here.

Wednesday, June 26

More important than following a set of rules, we should pattern our lives after Jesus' example. As Christians we are to have a relationship with Jesus – how does our relationship with Jesus affect our lives? Is having a relationship with Jesus more effective in living our lives in ways that nurture our relationships with God and each other?

What role do rules have in our relationships? What does the statement "Our Christian faith is more about relationships than rules." mean to you? Write your thoughts here.