

Yesterday and Today and Forever, Week 4

Small Group Discussion Guide, week of Nov. 29th

NOV 29TH SERMON SUMMARY

CELEBRATING JESUS TODAY

The same Jesus who was born ~2,000 years ago is the same Jesus who is with us today, and the same Jesus who will one day return (Heb. 13:8). In light of the fact that Jesus came as Lord and King, the challenge for us is to celebrate Jesus as Lord and King *today*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION: Share briefly about the last birthday party you attended. Why did you go and what made it meaningful for you?

II. THINK AND REFLECT.

1. As we enter into a season of celebrating the birth of Jesus, let us consider how we feel about Him this very moment.

a. What do you most enjoy about the Christmas season? What do you least enjoy?

b. How does the Christmas season affect your feelings towards Jesus today and vice versa?

2. Read the following verses from this past Sunday:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

²³“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” Luke 9:23–24

“Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” Luke 9:26

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— ³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ ³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” Matthew 10:34–37

““If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26

²³Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching” John 14:23–24

- a. What are Jesus’ expectations of a disciple/follower?

- b. How do you feel about those expectations?

III. PERSONAL APPLICATION (Choose 1 of the following if time is limited)

1. What areas of your life are the hardest to surrender and let go of to God?

2. What things can you do to celebrate who Jesus is today?