

Chapter 12: Discussion Questions

Comprehension – Quick recap of what the scripture says.

Interpretation

When Jesus says, "for you have the poor among you always," (v.8) does that mean we should only give to church and not to the poor?

Discuss what/how a kernel of wheat dying produces many seeds relates to a person who hates their life will keep it for eternal life. What does it mean to hate your life? (vv.24-26)

How was the prince of this world driven out?

Jesus was with them for a while longer, imploring them to believe (v.35-36), but despite all of the signs, they would not (v. 37-38). Why would God "blind their eyes and dull their minds"?

What does Jesus explain about faith and his purpose in the world when he "cries out" in verses 44-47?

Application

This passage points out that many of the leaders did believe but not openly, what good was that? Do you ever feel like you believe, but are not very open with your faith?

Jesus was in turmoil yet he understood that this was why he had come into the world and he would not change course. What purpose does God have for your life? Why are you where you are, surrounded by the specific people in your life? Are you following through with God's purpose or are you trying to change the course to something a little easier or more comfortable?

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Interpretation

How did Jesus show his love to his closest friends?

Discuss the exchange between Jesus and Peter. What does Jesus mean when he says a man who has bathed needs no further washing?

Do you understand Jesus when he starts discussing that "A servant is not greater than his master..."

Why was Jesus troubled in his spirit? (v. 21)

Jesus gave Judas the dipped bread and as soon as he took it, Satan entered him...what exactly do you make of this? (v. 27)

Discuss Jesus' new command. (v. 34-35)

Application

Peter stands out in this chapter, he seems to be outspoken and to wear his emotions on his sleeve. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus predicted his denial? Have there been any times in your life when you've unintentionally denied Jesus, even if it was by keeping your mouth shut? How can you prepare your heart and mind for future situations?

Jesus gives us an example of how to show our love to others. He then finishes the chapter with a new commandment to love one another. Do people really know we are Christians by our love? Consider how implementing these things into your life would impact the people/community around you. Can it actually be done? Is it practical to love those who seem impossible to love?