

Ellen G. White Estate

# THE DESIRE OF AGES



Study Guide



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# **The Desire of Ages** **-- Study Guide**

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**Ellen G. White Estate**

**2019**

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### **About the Author**

Ellen G. White (1827-1915) is considered the most widely translated American author, her works having been published in more than 160 languages. She wrote more than 100,000 pages on a wide variety of spiritual and practical topics. Guided by the Holy Spirit, she exalted Jesus and pointed to the Scriptures as the basis of one's faith.

### **Further Links**

[A Brief Biography of Ellen G. White](#)  
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## Chapter 1: “God With Us”

1. The Father and Son “covenanted” together to save fallen mankind. Was their plan conceived before or after the fall?

2. In what way is the meaning of the name “Immanuel” significant to you in your personal walk with God?

3. Compare [Exodus 25:8](#) with [John 1:14](#). What is the significance of Christ’s becoming truly human?

4. As both the Son of man and the Son of God, Jesus partakes in humanity and lays hold of the throne of God. In what way does this affect our power to obey God’s law?

5. Satan and sin have marred our picture of God. What are some ways that the “handwriting of God” remains legible in the world?

## Chapter 2: The Chosen People

[5]

1. Read [Genesis 12:1-3](#). In its practice of faith, Israel failed to be a “blessing to the nations.” In what ways can the church today misrepresent God to the world? In what ways has God called you to be a blessing to your community?

2. Through persecution and oppression, Israel began to see that their prosperity was dependent on their obedience to God’s law. Though true, what vital part was missing from their obedience?

3. The people of Israel looked forward to the Messiah, but they had no true conception of His mission. What did they expect the Messiah to do for them?

[6]

### **Chapter 3: “The Fullness of the Time”**

1. How did God direct world affairs so that the world was ripe for the coming of the Savior?

2. In [Galatians 4:4](#) Paul writes that Christ’s coming occurred “in the fullness of time.” How should this evidence of God’s wisdom and perfect timing affect our trust in Him?

3. “Israel hoarded the living manna,” thereby shutting out the light of God’s truth from its neighbors. How can the contemporary church avoid making the same mistake with non-believers?

4. How did Israel’s system of worship differ from the heathen religions of the time?

## Chapter 4: Unto You a Saviour

[7]

1. What does the story of Christ's birth in Bethlehem and the angels' visit to the shepherds say about God's interest in us?

2. Read [Micah 5:2](#) and [Luke 2:1-5](#). God used the census by Caesar Augustus to bring Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, where the Messiah was to be born. What are some ways we can discern the hand of God in everyday events?

3. Would Jesus have been received differently had He come as a powerful and glorious earthly ruler?

4. We are called to marvel at the amazing sacrifice of God the Father in sending His only Son to earth. In what ways has this great sacrificial love of God affected your life?

[8]

## **Chapter 5: The Dedication**

1. Why is it easier for us to acknowledge “Christ in history” than “the living Christ” present in our lives today?

2. The life of Jesus is a “call to self-surrender.” What are some of the challenges you face in surrendering your life to Christ?

3. “The gift of Christ reveals the Father’s heart.” Have you ever been assured of Jesus’ love for you, yet felt that the Father had a different attitude toward you? What could be some reasons for this feeling?

## **Chapter 6: “We Have Seen His Star”**

[9]

1. The Magi had outward evidence (the star) and inward evidence (the Holy Spirit) that God was leading them. In what ways have you experienced both kinds of evidence in your life?

2. The pride of the religious leaders did not allow them to learn from “outsiders.” Are there “teachers” that God sends to us that we would rather not learn from?

3. The wise men went to great lengths to bring gifts to the baby Jesus. What are some practical ways that you can give gifts to God?

## Chapter 7: As a Child

1. Read [Acts 17:27](#). With this text in mind, contrast true education with that which was common in the rabbinical schools during Jesus' early years. What is the focus and end result of these two systems of education?

2. What do the setting and content of many of Jesus' parables in the Gospels tell us about where He spent much of His free time as a child? What was His purpose in studying nature?

3. Which of the traits of character manifested by Jesus as a child would you like to develop in your life?

4. All classes and ages of society and even the animals were happier for Jesus' presence among them. How could you imitate the example of Jesus to bless those with whom you come in contact in daily life?

## Chapter 8: The Passover Visit

[11]

1. Read [John 1:5](#). “The youthful modesty and grace of Jesus disarmed” the prejudices of the rabbis. What was the rabbis’ response to the light of the Holy Spirit? What lesson can we learn from their choice?

2. In the experience of losing Jesus for an entire day, what else were Joseph and Mary in danger of forgetting? How did Jesus’ response to his parents help them to understand both His mission and His relationship to God?

3. How does the neglect of Jesus’ parents parallel with that of many of Jesus’ followers. In what ways can this neglect be manifested? What is the end result?

## Chapter 9: Days of Conflict

1. In acting independently of the rabbinical laws from His childhood, Jesus suffered censure and reproof from many sides. Why did He follow this course of action? What justification did He give for His simple life?

2. What encouragement can we draw from the relationship between Jesus and His brothers when we face scorn or ridicule in regard to our faith? Read [Hebrews 4:15](#).

3. Jesus “passed by no human being as worthless.” Who in your sphere of influence might you be passing by? What actions could you take to show Jesus’ love?

## Chapter 10: The Voice in the Wilderness

[13]

1. In [Luke 1:76-79](#), Zacharias prophesied about the mission of his son. What was John's mission? Describe John's preparation for this mission.

2. In what ways was John "a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming"?

3. Compare and contrast the society of John's time with our contemporary society. Do you think it was easy or hard for John to fulfill his mission?

4. John's message was one of repentance for sin. How can his message prepare you for Jesus' coming?

## Chapter 11: The Baptism

1. What was it about Jesus that made John certain that the Man asking for baptism was the Messiah?

2. Read [Matthew 3:13-17](#). What are some reasons why Jesus desired baptism?

3. Jesus' prayer on the riverbank included several requests. What were these requests? Consider the reasons that Jesus may have had for each request.

4. "The glory that rested upon Christ . . . tells us of the power of prayer—how the human voice may reach the ear of God, and our petitions find acceptance in the courts of heaven." How would you apply this statement in your own prayer life?

## Chapter 12: The Temptation

[15]

1. List the intentional actions of Satan to counter God's work to save humanity. What specific reasons are given for these actions?
2. When is Satan most successful in gaining victory over humanity? Give some examples from Scripture.
3. Explain the meaning of Jesus' words in [John 14:30](#)? How did they apply to Him? What do they mean for us?
4. Name the core issue underlying Jesus' first temptation on appetite. In what ways is this issue at work within you? How can you gain the victory in similar struggles? Think of at least one specific promise in Scripture that you can memorize and hold onto in times of temptation.

## **Chapter 13: The Victory**

1. Satan could not compel Jesus to sin, and Jesus did not fall. Satan can never compel us to sin either, so why do Christians frequently fall?

2. Jesus “endured the test, greater than we shall ever be called to endure.” What made these temptations great for Him?

3. When you think of the temptations you are now facing, what tools does this chapter present that will help you overcome them?

## **Chapter 14: “We Have Found the Messiah”**

[17]

1. John was well acquainted with the prophecies of the Messiah, but did not see clearly that Jesus would suffer and die. How can we make sure we do not miss the presence of Jesus because of our own expectations?

2. What draws you to Jesus?

3. Why has God given humans a part in the work of soul saving?

4. What role did angels play in Christ’s earthly ministry?

## Chapter 15: At the Marriage Feast

1. Read [John 2:4](#). How did Jesus respond to Mary? By responding as He did, what was Jesus communicating to her?
2. Like the superior wine (grape juice) of Jesus' first miracle, every new gift He gives is "ever fresh and new." Explore the meaning of this concept, giving concrete examples from your own experience.
3. Discuss how Jesus trained His disciples. How do His methods compare with those we use? How did Jesus reach the hearts of the people?
4. What are some specific ways that you can "carry Jesus" with you and "reveal to others the preciousness of our Saviour"?

## **Chapter 16: In His Temple**

[19]

1. Describe conditions in the temple in Jesus' day. What lessons are there for the contemporary church?
2. After Jesus cleansed the temple, who stayed behind? Why did they remain there?
3. What do Jesus' actions in relation to the Pharisees and the needy tell you about His idea for the church?
4. Jesus is now in the heavenly sanctuary, ministering on our behalf. How does this reality make you feel about your salvation?

## Chapter 17: Nicodemus

1. What did Jesus mean when He said that we need to be born again? Have you experienced this birth? How do you know?
2. Read [John 3:8](#). When Jesus compared the work of the Holy Spirit to the wind, what did He mean? Is conversion a point in time, a process, or both?
3. Discuss how pride became a stumbling block for Nicodemus. How does pride sometimes show itself in the believers' actions in the church?
4. After talking with Jesus, Nicodemus remained inactive for three years, but then became a committed leader of the early church. Has your experience with God been similar to his? Describe.

## Chapter 18: “He Must Increase”

[21]

1. What can we learn from the humble attitudes of Jesus and John? Is such humility intentional, or is it solely the result of God’s presence in one’s life?

2. John understood his role as he worked for God and was willing to accept it. What should our attitude be when in a leadership position?

3. Read [John 3:30](#). Describe a time when you had to take such a course of action.

[22]

## **Chapter 19: At Jacob's Well**

1. What social taboos separated Jews from Samaritans?
2. Why did the Samaritan woman receive Christ without a miracle, while the Pharisees rejected Him in spite of many miracles?
3. In light of how Jesus approached the Samaritan woman, how might you approach people of other faiths, or no faith, differently than you currently do?

## Chapter 20: “Except Ye See Signs and Wonders”

[23]

1. Why did the “worldly minded” people of Nazareth not recognize and accept Jesus as the Savior of the world?
2. What were some of the issues that led the “nobleman” to doubt the messiahship of Jesus?
3. What two equally miraculous events took place in this story?
4. Read [John 4:46-54](#). What lessons did you personally learn from this story about faith and belief?

## Chapter 21: Bethesda and the Sanhedrin

1. Read [John 5:1-9](#). Why did Jesus choose to work this miracle on the Sabbath? What prevented Him from healing all the people at the pool? How did Jesus' words and the man's actions work together in the process of this great miracle? What implications does this have for your own personal exercise of faith?
2. Since Satan could not overthrow Christ in the wilderness, what was his next strategy? Does the strongest opposition to genuine faith usually come from believers or unbelievers. Why?
3. What prevented the Jews of John's day from believing and accepting the message of Christ?

## Chapter 22: Imprisonment and Death of John

[25]

1. Read [Mark 6:17-28](#). What does Ellen White add to our understanding of this passage that is not explicitly stated in the biblical text?
2. What made John the Baptist wonder whether Jesus was truly the Messiah?
3. John never performed a miracle or called down fire from heaven as did the Prophet Elijah. Why, then, did Jesus consider John to be a greater prophet than the others?
4. In the context of John the Baptist's story, can you explain why bad things happen to good people?

[26]

## **Chapter 23: “The Kingdom of God Is at Hand”**

1. Read [Daniel 9:24-27](#). How does this prophecy indicate the exact time when the Messiah would come?
2. [John 1:11](#) says: “He came to his own, and his own received him not.” What are some reasons why the so-called “religious” Israelites rejected Christ?
3. What difference does the soon coming of Jesus make in your life?
4. What benefit is there in not knowing the exact time of our Lord’s return?

## **Chapter 24: “Is Not This the Carpenter’s Son?”**

[27]

1. Read [Luke 4:23-27](#). Out of the many lepers that lived in Elisha’s time, why was only Naaman healed?

2. “Truth was unpopular in Christ’s day. It is unpopular in our day.” What are some contemporary theories and doctrines that have no foundation in God’s Word?

3. Many people rejected Christ because their deficiencies of character demanded repentance and they were unwilling to change. Is there anything in your life that keeps you from living a life totally committed to God?

## Chapter 25: The Call by the Sea

1. Read [Luke 5:1-11](#). What were Peter's thoughts and feelings in this story? Why was the imprisonment of John the Baptist disheartening to him?

2. Why were "humble and unlearned men" of Galilee chosen to work for Christ? What happens to those who labor with Christ?

3. "There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon the heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God." How does this statement speak to you and your walk with Christ?

## Chapter 26: At Capernaum

[29]

1. How did Jesus overcome the doubts and natural predispositions of His audience to win them? What are some things that Christ refused to do to reach His audience?

2. Describe the process that led to the demon-possessed man becoming a slave of Satan.

3. What does the story of the demoniac teach us about the dangers of sin, the power of the Word of God, and the ability of Jesus to save?

4. Read [Isaiah 42:2-4](#). What are the differences between the spiritual life promoted by Jesus and that of the Pharisees? What impact did this chapter have on your own personal approach to spiritual life and worship?

## Chapter 27: “Thou Canst Make Me Clean”

1. What were some of the stigmas associated with leprosy? Was anyone exempt from these?
2. Given these stigmas, what caused the leper to seek Jesus so diligently? How diligently have you been seeking God in the last weeks and months?
3. Why did Jesus tell the leper not to talk about his experience of being healed? In what ways is it possible that our own efforts for God can actually hinder His cause?
4. Read [Psalm 33:6, 9](#). What does this text have to do with the healing of the paralytic in [Matthew 9:1-8](#)? How has Christ’s creative power been manifested in your life?

## Chapter 28: Levi-Matthew

[31]

1. Why did Jesus eat with publicans even though this was socially unacceptable? What implications does this have for our social interactions with people outside the church?

2. How did Jesus explain to John's disciples the differences between His teachings and those of the Pharisees on the topic of fasting? How can fasting become an abomination to Christ?

3. Read [Revelation 3:17, 18](#). To what degree have you personally experienced the Laodicean condition? How has God restored you to relationship with Him?

## **Chapter 29: The Sabbath**

1. What was God's purpose in creating the Sabbath? Why is the Sabbath not for Israel only, but for the whole world?
2. How can we keep the Sabbath holy? In what ways can its observance be "perverted"?
3. What is a common characteristic in every false religion? How does this relate to the Sabbath?
4. In what way does the Sabbath point to Jesus? What have been some of the strengths and weaknesses of your own attempts to rightly keep the Sabbath?

## Chapter 30: “He Ordained Twelve”

[33]

1. Why did Jesus prefer to teach in the groves and fields rather than in ornate synagogues? What does the Savior’s attitude toward creation say about His attitude toward us?

2. Read [Matthew 8:19-20](#). Why did Jesus deal patiently and tenderly with Judas though He knew what was in his heart?

3. Is it possible for us to become so accustomed to spiritual things that they no longer have power to change us? In what ways has this been your experience?

[34]

## Chapter 31: The Sermon on the Mount

1. What was Christ's attitude toward "the law and the prophets"?
2. Read [Exodus 20:3-17](#). The Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God. What is the purpose of this law? What does God reveal to us through it?
3. Read [Matthew 7:24-25](#); [Romans 8:11](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17](#). If today were to be your last day on earth, to what degree could you honestly say that you had both heard and done the words of Jesus?

## **Chapter 32: The Centurion**

[35]

1. What characteristics did the centurion possess that caused Jesus to describe him as more faithful than anyone in Israel?
2. Under what circumstances do feelings of unworthiness have a positive or negative impact on one's spiritual life?
3. Do you see a relationship between physical resurrection and spiritual resurrection? Explain.

[36]

## **Chapter 33: Who Are My Brethren?**

1. It is not God who deceives people or hardens their hearts. What is the process that ultimately leads people to unbelief?

2. How do you balance your love for Jesus and your love for your family and friends? What example did Jesus set in this regard?

3. Read [Isaiah 43:1](#), [4](#). Imagine God speaking these words directly to you. What response would God desire from you?

## **Chapter 34: The Invitation**

[37]

1. What are some causes of the oppressive burdens that rest on the shoulders of many?
2. What is “the school of Christ”? How do Christians enter it?
3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. If this passage is true, why do many professed Christians have an “anxious” and “troubled heart”?
4. How is the analogy of a yoke placed upon oxen instructive for your own personal experience with God?

## Chapter 35: “Peace, Be Still”

1. Why was Jesus at times utterly exhausted? Read [Psalm 107:23-32](#). How does it relate to this story? How might this passage have impressed the disciples?
2. What contrasting purposes did Jesus and Satan have in the destruction of the pigs?
3. What lesson did the demoniacs at Gergesa have for the disciples? What lesson did you find most meaningful in this account?

## Chapter 36: The Touch of Faith

[39]

1. How was the woman's mere touching of Jesus' garment sufficient to heal the disease that had plagued her for nearly her whole life? How did Jesus guard against a superstitious reaction to this event?

2. Read [Mark 5:24-34](#). What was the difference between the touch of the woman and of those who merely bumped into or stood next to Jesus?

3. What are we to keep "fresh" in our memories? Why?

## Chapter 37: The First Evangelists

1. Jesus sent the disciples out two by two. Discuss the benefits of such an arrangement and of the disciples' first opportunities to work at a distance from Jesus.

2. Read [Matthew 10](#). What instructions did Jesus give to His disciples? How do these instructions apply to us?

3. "Real peace can never be secured by compromising principle." Where would you draw the line between the compromise of principle and Christ-like tolerance when dealing with someone who has a different perspective from yours?

## Chapter 38: Come Rest Awhile

[41]

1. How would you describe Jesus' views on taking rest from labor? What is accomplished by this kind of rest?

2. "Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good." Why is this so?

3. What happens when we are always in a bustle of activity or under the strain of work? With society's demands, how can this be prevented?

4. What does it take to hear the voice of God? How can this be accomplished in modern times?

## Chapter 39: “Give Ye Them to Eat”

1. Jesus’ miracles were designed to help us “recognize Him in His gifts.” Are there gifts of God that are confused with “natural causes” or “human instrumentality”?

2. When we sense Jesus leading us into a ministry for which we do not have adequate resources, what should we do? How does this apply to situations that you or someone in the group are facing now?

3. Read [John 6:1-13](#). Put yourself in the place of Philip, Andrew, the lad with the lunch, and/or one of the crowd. What are your thoughts and feelings as you watch Jesus perform this miracle? God used the Passover pilgrimage to bring a great crowd together in order to experience this miracle. Who is God placing in your path? Which of His blessings to you would He like you to share with others?

## Chapter 40: A Night on the Lake

[43]

1. What kind of Messiah-Deliverer did the people desire? What kind of Deliverer did they need?

2. How did popular misconceptions of “the Christ” burden the life of Jesus? Are there any popular misconceptions of Christ that might pose as a burden to Him today?

3. Read [Isaiah 43:1-3](#). Why did God allow the storm to approach the disciples? How does God continue to use afflictions and trials to educate Christians?

4. How was Peter able to walk on the sea? What caused him to sink beneath the waves? Has even spiritual work sometimes led to pride and self-satisfaction in your life?

## **Chapter 41: The Crisis in Galilee**

1. Read [John 6:1-15](#). What was the turning point in the ministry of Jesus? Is this turning point noted in the Gospel of John as well?
2. Why didn't Christ soften the directness of His message in order to make it easier for people to accept it?
3. What does it mean to eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus? How does this aid our understanding of the Lord's Supper?
4. How is God calling you to "overcome as Christ overcame"? What specific steps in this direction can you take today?

## Chapter 42: Tradition

[45]

1. How did tradition designed to enhance God's law actually obscure both the law and its Author?
2. Read [Mark 7:5-13](#). What was the corban tradition? In what specific way did it enable a person to avoid the claims of God's law?
3. Are there specific customs and traditions in your personal life that you find hard to give up even though they have no basis in the eternal laws of God?

## Chapter 43: Barriers Broken Down

1. How was the manner in which Jesus received the Syro-Phoenician woman similar to and different from the practices of His day? What lesson was to be gleaned by the disciples from this exchange?

2. How did the example of the “dogs” and the “crumbs” test the woman’s faith and educate His disciples? What does it say to us?

3. Read [Ephesians 2:11-18](#). When was the wall of “partition broken down” between Jew and Gentile? How should this affect the way you personally choose to treat people?

4. In what ways is it possible for Christians to place a wall of partition between themselves and the non-Christian world?

## Chapter 44: The True Sign

[47]

1. Why did Jesus touch the “deaf” and “stammering” man in such an unusual way? Read [Revelation 3:14-22](#). What lesson is there for the Laodicean church in Jesus’ act?

2. Why was the phrase “ye can discern the face of the sky, but can ye not discern the signs of the times,” such a rebuke to the religious leaders?

3. What was the “leaven” of the Pharisees? Are Christians at risk of partaking of this “leaven”?

4. To what degree is the love of self something that you have to battle every day? Share victories that you have experienced in this battle.

## Chapter 45: The Foreshadowing of the Cross

1. Did Christ know before the incarnation the toils, the trials, the betrayal, the abandonment, and torture He would endure in the process of saving man? What does it say about Christ's view of the human race?

2. Read [Matthew 16:13-28](#). What did Christ mean by the "Rock" and the "keys"?

3. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter sharply, saying: "Get behind me, Satan?" Who was Peter hurting by his words?

4. Read [John 2:4](#). By responding to Mary as He did, what was Jesus communicating to her?

## Chapter 46: He Was Transfigured

[49]

1. Why did Jesus take only Peter, James, and John with Him to pray on the mountain?
2. Why did Moses and Elijah meet with Jesus when He was transfigured, rather a legion of angels or Gabriel?
3. Read [Psalm 46:10](#). How does this text relate to the command of God the Father to the disciples that they to listen to Jesus? Are there times in your life when you need to just stop and listen to Jesus?

## Chapter 47: Ministry

1. Read [Mark 9:23](#). Jesus told the distressed father of the demoniac: “All things are possible to him that believeth” Read [Romans 10:9, 10](#). Is this the kind of belief Jesus is referring to?
2. Why did Jesus delay in healing the demon-possessed boy?
3. The time Jesus spent with His Father on the mountain made Him better equipped for service in the plain below. What can we learn from Jesus’ example?
4. “In this state of darkness, they [the disciples] had undertaken the conflict with Satan.” How do we reach a state of mind that is able to endure the daily conflicts with Satan?

## Chapter 48: Who Is the Greatest?

[51]

1. When the collector of the temple tax questioned Peter about Christ's payment of the tax, why did Peter answer so hastily?
2. Relate Lucifer's desire to be the greatest, as set forth in [Isaiah 14:12-14](#), with the desire of the disciples to be the greatest. In what ways are they similar or different?
3. Many times people interpret [Matthew 18:17](#) ("Let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican") as instruction to never again communicate with an erring person. How did Jesus mean for this passage to be understood?

## Chapter 49: At the Feast of Tabernacles

1. Read [John 7:1-15](#). Why did Jesus decide not to go to the feast at the appointed time?
2. Jesus' brothers were hopeful that He was the Messiah. What "spirit" caused them to be anxious and perplexed at his strange behavior?
3. According to [John 7:8](#), Jesus knew that it was not time for Him to go to Jerusalem. How do you personally respond when you receive an impression that seems to be from God?

## Chapter 50: Among Snares

[53]

1. In order to receive the truth, what must we do when the Holy Spirit reveals our sins to us?
2. Jesus showed the rulers that He read their hearts. While they accused Jesus of being a breaker of the law, what command from God were they breaking?
3. Jesus performed a great miracle for the woman caught in adultery by His acceptance of her and His forgiveness of her sin. Share examples from your own experience of trying to love sinners while maintaining hatred for their sin.

## Chapter 51: “The Light of Life”

1. Light has always been a symbol of God’s presence. Name at least four events in the Bible where light accompanied the presence of God?

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2. Abraham longed to see the Messiah. How did his own experience with Isaac on Mt. Moriah help him to understand the infinite sacrifice God has made to save humanity?

3. By openly healing the man who was born blind, Jesus placed the rulers and Pharisees in a serious predicament. Describe two ways they tried to change public opinion about Jesus’ healing of the man.

4. The Jews believed that one’s suffering was always a direct result of sin. When you suffer for any reason, do you tend to blame others, God, or yourself?

## Chapter 52: The Divine Shepherd

[55]

1. How does the example of the caring “Shepherd” relate to the care of Christ for us? How would you apply this to the way you treat other believers?

2. What is meant by this sentence: “The way of heaven is consecrated by the Savior’s footprints”?

3. What does [John 10:17, 18](#) mean: “I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again”?

## Chapter 53: The Last Journey From Galilee

1. Read [John 7:1](#); [11:7-16](#). Near the close of His ministry, Jesus made a change in His manner of labor. What did He do differently?
2. What were the trials and temptations that vexed Christ as He set out toward Jerusalem? How did Jesus meet these temptations and trials?
3. Why did the Samaritans refuse to receive Christ's disciples? Why was the response of James and John so disappointing to Christ?
4. If the science of salvation cannot be explained, how can it be known?

## Chapter 54: The Good Samaritan

[57]

1. Read [Luke 10:25-37](#). How does the story of the “Good Samaritan” illustrate the difference between true religion and false religion?

2. Why was the example of the priest passing by the injured man such a rebuke to the religious leaders? What lessons did the priest and Levite learn but fail to practice?

3. What is the definition of Christianity? What does it mean to be a Christian?

## Chapter 55: Not With Outward Show

1. How did Jesus' ascension change the disciples' view of His character and mission? To what degree are we affected by the kinds of regret they felt at that time?

2. Read [Luke 17:20-22](#). What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the inner kingdom that Jesus talked about in this passage?

3. Why did Jesus respond indifferently to the civil and political issues of His day? In what ways do you feel you should respond to similar issues in your surroundings?

## Chapter 56: Blessing the Children

[59]

1. Read [Mark 10:13-16](#). Why did Jesus express strong emotion with regard to the disciples' treatment of the children who had come to Him?
2. Why do children listen to Christ more readily than do many adults?
3. What are the best ways to win the confidence of the children we wish to draw to Jesus?
4. "Do not keep the little ones away from Him by your coldness and harshness. Never give them cause to feel that heaven will not be a pleasant place to them if you are there." How does this statement challenge you personally?

## Chapter 57: “One Thing Thou Lackest”

1. Why was the rich young ruler drawn to Christ? Why was Christ drawn to him? What was the key element in the rich young ruler’s decision? See [Joshua 24:15](#). Describe a point in your life when you faced a similar decision.

2. How can our natural love of self be surrendered, in practical ways?

3. In what way is the ruler’s life an object lesson for all Christians?

## Chapter 58: “Lazarus, Come Forth”

[61]

1. What was it about the home of Lazarus and his sisters that Jesus enjoyed so much?

2. Read [Luke 10:40-42](#). How did Jesus respond to Martha’s complaint that Mary was not helping her?

How does this story relate to your own personality and natural way of dealing with situations?

3. Why did Jesus delay in going to Lazarus? How is the resurrection of Lazarus both a great miracle and a great mercy? What is the significance of Jesus asking those present to take away the stone? Why was the resurrection of Lazarus a bitter-sweet event?

## Chapter 59: Priestly Plottings

1. Read [John 11:45-53](#). Why was the resurrection of Lazarus the event that necessitated the death of Jesus in the eyes of the Sanhedrin? Why was it particularly embarrassing for the Sadducees? How did it embarrass the Pharisees? In what ways do the words of Jesus still offend religious people?
2. What did the Sanhedrin hope to gain by putting Christ to death? In what ways do you feel tempted to put personal position ahead of God's will for your life?
3. How could one so loving, pure, kind, truthful, and divine be considered an offense to the religious world?

## Chapter 60: The Law of the New Kingdom

[63]

1. Why did the disciples have such a hard time understanding the prophecies of Scripture and the words of Christ concerning His death?

2. Read [Matthew 20:20-28](#). How is position in the kingdom of heaven determined? How should this affect your decisions in relation to family, church, work, and society? How do the kingdoms of the world differ from the kingdom of God?

## **Chapter 61: Zacchaeus**

1. Before he ever met Jesus, Zacchaeus began correcting the wrongs that he had done. What caused him to take these actions?

2. Zacchaeus publicly announced what he was doing to make restitution to those he had wronged. Why do you think it was important for him to “make public his confession and his repentance”?

3. True repentance will result in “reformation.” In what areas of your life do you see the work of reformation taking place?

## Chapter 62: The Feast at Simon's House

[65]

1. Judas disapproved of what Mary did for Jesus at the feast at Simon's house. What character traits did these criticisms reveal?

2. Simon "acknowledged Jesus as a teacher . . . but he had not accepted Him as a Savior." What do you think is the difference between accepting Jesus "as a teacher" and accepting "Him as a Savior"?

3. "To human reasoning the whole plan of salvation is a waste of mercies and resources." Read [1 Corinthians 1:18-25](#). Why does God's salvation seem like foolishness to the worldly?

4. If individuals are to "appreciate all that Christ is to them," they would not consider anything too valuable to give to Him in return. How is God calling you personally to respond in appreciation for what Jesus has done for you?

## Chapter 63: “Thy King Cometh”

1. Read John 18:36. If Jesus’ kingdom “was not of this world,” why did He allow the people on this occasion to honor Him the way they did?

2. The temple in Jerusalem was an object of pride for both the Jews and the Romans. Why, then, did the sight of the temple bring overwhelming sorrow to Jesus?

3. The disciples responded to questions about the triumphal entry by repeating prophecies that pointed to Christ. How have the Bible’s prophecies enhanced your understanding of Jesus?

4. “Pharisaical pride, hypocrisy, jealousy, and malice had prevented [Christ] from accomplishing His purpose” of saving Jerusalem. Are any of these preventing Christ from accomplishing His purpose in you?

## Chapter 64: A Doomed People

[67]

1. Read [Matthew 7:21-27](#). The fig tree that Jesus cursed stood out from all the other fig trees in the orchard because it appeared to have fruit. In what ways did the Jewish nation at that time also appear to stand out above the other nations of the earth? In what way is the cursing of the fig tree a warning “to all churches and to all Christians”?

2. To the disciples, the cursing of the fig tree seemed strange in contrast to Jesus’ saving ministry. In what ways was Christ’s mercy visible, even in the cursing of the fig tree?

3. After the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus spent the night in prayer. Why is prayer particularly important after what seems like great spiritual success?

4. Often individuals reject God’s truth because it doesn’t fit with their own “practices and their natural inclination.” What is supreme in your life right now—God’s truth, or what you think is right for yourself?

## Chapter 65: The Temple Cleansed Again

1. The leaders of the temple multiplied sacrifices in order to bring increased riches to themselves. What impact should these sacrifices have had in people's lives?

2. The religious leaders in Jerusalem had lost the respect of the people. What caused this loss of respect?

3. When Jesus came to cleanse the temple the second time, "the condition of things was even worse than before." Why is it that when people fall back into sin they tend to fall deeper than before?

4. "It was not Christ's purpose to humiliate His opponents." Why did Jesus not seek to humiliate those who were trying hard to trap Him?

## Chapter 66: Controversy

[69]

1. Jesus was “charged with exalting the last six commandments above the first four.” On what basis was He accused of doing this?

2. “While peaceably subject to the laws of the land, they should at all times give their first allegiance to God.” To what degree is the church keeping its balance between these two principles?

3. “When God has His rightful place on the throne of the heart, the right place will be given to our neighbor.” How does your relationship with your “neighbors” demonstrate the quality of your relationship with God?

4. Read [Mark 12:28-34](#). What is the central matter of true religion according to this passage? In what way did the lawyer understand this principle? What did he not yet understand?

## Chapter 67: Woes on the Pharisees

1. Read [Matthew 23:11-12](#). How did the religious leaders of Jesus' day seek greatness? What does true greatness consist of in Heaven's eyes?
2. Jesus told His disciples that the widow gave more than all the others. What made her gift so valuable?
3. "It is the motive that gives character to our acts, stamping them with ignominy or with high moral worth." What are the motivations behind most religious actions?

## Chapter 68: In the Outer Court

[71]

1. Read [John 12:20-25](#). Why did the request from a group of Greeks trigger thoughts of the cross in Jesus? How can we apply the principle of verse 25 in our own lives?

2. What agricultural metaphor did Jesus use in [John 12](#)? In what way does selfishness inhibit us from bringing people into God's kingdom?

3. "All who have borne with Jesus the cross of sacrifice will be sharers with Him of His glory." What are some areas in your life where God could be calling you to make a sacrifice for Him?

## Chapter 69: On the Mount of Olives

1. Why did Jesus mix descriptions of the destruction of Jerusalem with “the great day of His coming”?
2. Read [Matthew 24:36-42](#). Why didn’t Jesus reveal to the disciples the exact time when He would return?
3. What is it about trials and persecution that causes people to make decisions for Christ?
4. Jesus gave warning signs of His return so that “Those who heed the warning will be saved.” How are Christ’s gracious warnings impacting the way that you live your life?

## Chapter 70: “The Least of These My Brethren”

[73]

1. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#). On the great judgment day, everyone will be in one of two groups. What are these two groups? What determines which group an individual will be in?

2. Some people believe that they would be blessed by visiting the places where Jesus taught and ministered during His time on earth. In what ways can we “walk in the steps of Jesus”?

3. “Love to man is the earthward manifestation of the love of God.” In what ways is God’s love being spread throughout the earth through the way you live your life?

## Chapter 71: A Servant of Servants

1. Read [John 13:6-10](#). What relationship is implied between the footwashing service and baptism? What kinds of changes need to happen in the hearts of those who participate in the footwashing?

2. When Jesus came to wash Peter's feet, at first Peter was not willing to let Him. What would Peter have ultimately rejected if he had refused to allow Jesus to wash His feet?

3. "While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ." In what areas of your life might you be holding on to any of these traits?

## **Chapter 72: “In Remembrance of Me”**

[75]

1. How do the Passover and the Lord’s Supper commemorate the mighty acts of God for the salvation of His people?

2. When Judas left the upper room, he “passed the boundary line.” What was the boundary line for Judas? Discuss Judas’s resistance to the Holy Spirit’s work in his life. What steps can we take to make sure that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit?

3. “Christ’s example forbids exclusiveness at the Lord’s supper.” How do your own thoughts about the people around you relate to the example of Christ?

## Chapter 73: “Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled”

1. Read [John 16:7-14](#). The greatest gift that Jesus gives His followers after His ascension is the Holy Spirit. In what way is the Holy Spirit’s work for us even more beneficial than having Jesus present in the flesh?

2. Many Christians talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. Why is that true?

3. Throughout His life Christ met with apparent defeat, yet in the unseen world His life was one of uninterrupted victories. Why is it difficult to see and understand the unseen world?

4. Christ speaks of connection between Himself and humanity in terms of a vine and its branches. In what ways have you personally experienced this connection?

## Chapter 74: Gethsemane

[77]

1. The Sanhedrin at times played a dominant role in Jesus' life. Describe the Sanhedrin's attitude toward Jesus.

2. What made it difficult for Jesus to accept the path of the cross? What caused Him such agony that He sweat drops of blood?

3. What was the determining factor for Jesus in deciding to go through with His sacrifice on the cross? How does anything that you might sacrifice or suffer compare to what the Savior experienced?

[78]

## **Chapter 75: Before Annas and the Court of Caiaphas**

1. What kind of Messiah were the religious leaders looking for? Why did Jesus, the true Messiah, disappoint them?
2. How can we avoid the pitfalls that caused the Jewish religious leaders to condemn and murder Jesus?
3. Read [Isaiah 53](#). As we behold Jesus' suffering at the hands of His own creation, what can we learn from His behavior throughout the trial?

## Chapter 76: Judas

[79]

1. Read [John 8:23](#); [18:36](#). What was it about Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven that caused Judas to reject it?
2. What is the difference between true and false repentance?
3. One reason Judas joined Jesus was to gain a position of recognition in the kingdom of Jesus. Can you think of times when your own faith was motivated by earthly rewards?

## Chapter 77: In Pilate's Judgment Hall

1. Summarize the character qualities and thought processes of Pilate that caused him to act the way he did at the trial of Jesus.
2. Why did Jesus refuse to perform a miracle in order to save himself? Read [Luke 23:7-12](#).
3. What gave Jesus the strength to rise above natural human instinct to defend one's self in the face of cruelty and dishonest accusations?
4. "All who compromise with sin will gain only sorrow and ruin." Where do you draw the line between compromise and a toleration of differences?

## Chapter 78: Calvary

[81]

1. Read [Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#). What aspects of this prophecy were fulfilled in Jesus' suffering, trial, and crucifixion?
2. Describe the thought processes that led the penitent thief to accept Jesus as his Savior?
3. Jesus suffered great physical pain, abuse, and mental distress during the course of His crucifixion. What encouragement can those who suffer take from this?
4. Many who took part in praising Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem a few days before were now demanding Jesus' crucifixion. How did such a radical change take place?
5. Carrying the cross of Jesus "was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence." What "cross" could Jesus be asking you to carry? How could carrying that cross become a blessing to you?

## Chapter 79: “It Is Finished”

1. “To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, ‘It is finished,’ had a deep significance.” Read [John 19:28-30](#). What impact did Christ’s death have on those who had never fallen?

2. List the various charges Satan has made against the government of God. In what ways does the cross answer those charges?

3. “Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world.” How are you answering that question in your daily experience?

## Chapter 80: In Joseph's Tomb

[83]

1. During Christ's execution, three men from widely different backgrounds confessed their faith in Jesus. Who were these three men? What drew each of them to Jesus?

2. Read [John 3:14-15](#). Why is it that Jesus "must be lifted up"? What about the cross was absolutely essential to the plan of salvation?

3. Even after His death, Jesus' disciples held Him in respect and desired for His body to be buried properly. How is your life showing respect to Jesus, the One who died for you?

4. While Jesus was dead in Joseph's tomb, sick people "were dying for want of the healing touch of Jesus." What can you do to share the risen Jesus with people around you who would otherwise die without Him?

## Chapter 81: “The Lord Is Risen”

1. Read [Matthew 28:1-15](#). In what way did the priests “overreach themselves” in creating a fabricated story about the disappearance of Jesus’ body?
2. Why was Pilate troubled about reports that Jesus had been raised from the dead?
3. At Christ’s resurrection, the soldiers’ “eyes were riveted upon the face of Him whom they had so recently mocked and derided.” Put yourself in the soldiers’ place; what kinds of thoughts and emotions would you have felt at that moment?

## Chapter 82: “Why Weepest Thou?”

[85]

1. Read [John 20:13-17](#). Why did Jesus reject the worship of His followers until after He met with His heavenly Father?

2. The disciples had a hard time believing in the resurrection of Jesus because of “the so-called scientific theories of the Sadducees.” In what ways can modern scientific knowledge blind us to the reality of God’s Word?

3. Why do you think people are often unable to sense the presence of the Lord until their trial or difficulty has passed and they look back on the situation?

4. The careful folding of the grave clothes reminds us that “Order and perfection are seen in all His [Jesus’] work.” Identify one area or time in your life where you have experienced Christ’s orderly and perfect work.

## Chapter 83: The Walk to Emmaus

1. As Jesus walked and talked with the two disciples from Emmaus, He kept His identity hidden from them. Why was it important for Him to do this?

2. Read [Luke 24:25-27](#). What kinds of things in the Old Testament would Jesus have pointed out to these disciples?

3. Once the disciples realized that their guest was Jesus, they could not keep this news to themselves. How is your experience with Jesus compelling you to share it with others?

## Chapter 84: “Peace Be Unto You”

[87]

1. What were the six truths that the followers of Christ were to share with others in the wake of Christ’s resurrection? Consider the meaning of each of these.

2. Read [John 20:21-23](#). Does the church have “power” to forgive and to withhold forgiveness? Explain your answer.

3. In what way is it true that “He who despises the authority of the church despises the authority of Christ Himself”?

4. Thomas had a deep love for Jesus, “but he had allowed jealousy and unbelief to take possession of his mind and heart.” Have jealousy or doubt ever hindered your relationship with Jesus or with the church?

## Chapter 85: By the Sea Once More

1. Why do public sins necessitate public confession? What lessons can churches draw from Peter's experience?
2. What is the single most important characteristic that Jesus is looking for in His disciples? How can we obtain more of this characteristic?
3. Read [Matthew 7:1-5](#). Why is it easy to judge others, yet hard to honestly evaluate ourselves?
4. "Peter was naturally forward and impulsive, and Satan had taken advantage of these characteristics to overthrow him." What are the weak points of your own personality that Satan tries to exploit?

## Chapter 86: Go Teach All Nations

[89]

1. Why was it necessary that the proclamation of Jesus' kingdom begin at Jerusalem? Read [Luke 24:45-47](#).

2. Why did Jesus involve natural means when healing people if His own healing power was what actually brought about the cure?

3. God entrusted the Jews of Jesus' day with a special knowledge, "but Pharisaism had made them the most exclusive, the most bigoted, of all the human race." What kinds of beliefs lead to similar prejudices today?

4. "Christ is sitting for His portrait in every disciple." What kind of portrait of Jesus can others see in your life?

## Chapter 87: “To My Father, and Your Father”

1. The Mount of Olives plays a central role in what three biblical events? Do you sense any spiritual lesson in this pattern?
2. Before His ascension, Jesus repeated to His disciples some of the lessons that He had already taught them before His death. What are the benefits of repetition in spiritual things?
3. Read [Psalm 24:7-10](#). Why do you think that praise to God is so important for His creatures?
4. Jesus promised His followers that He would always be with them. What significance does this have for you when you share Christ’s love with people who do not appreciate it?