

Discussion Guide: Jesus - Who is He?

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)

December 22, 2002: "Jesus - Who is He" by Joe Bartemus, Pastor of Adult Education. Joe asked, "Who is Jesus" and reading from 2 Corinthians 8:9 described a four fold description of Jesus by the Apostle Paul.

In the previous verses, Paul encouraged fellow believers in Corinth to follow the example of the saints in Macedonia who out of their extreme poverty gave generously to the cause of Christ and did so from a sense of urgency and a deep desire to be of service to the saints.

With this as a backdrop, Paul encouraged them to

...excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)

Paul then went on to tell them...

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NIV)

With the hustle and bustle of giving gifts to family and friends at Christmas time, we need to remember the indescribable gift that God gave to us in sending his Son who, "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

Application Points and Discussion Questions on 2 Corinthians 8:9

A. Knowing the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...

1. Do you have a limited view of grace?
2. Do you think you are the #1 Who in the universe
3. Does the grace of Jesus affect your life?
 - Do you look to him for victory over sin?
 - Check your grace monitor in your relationships to the Lord and others.

Discussion Question:

How should the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ effect the way we love one another, especially those that make it so difficult to love?

B. When considering the fact that, "though he was rich" ...

1. Rejoice in the glory of God in Christ Jesus -- do not misunderstand the "frail baby."
2. He is able to bring the resources of the Godhead to minister to us in need.
3. We must stop sinning and pursue his glory!

Discussion Question:

What riches did Jesus have with God the Father before he came down to earth in the form of human flesh?

C. When considering that, "though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor" ...

1. Why did he become poor? On Account of Us!!!
2. Grace was never more clearly seen than in the advent of Jesus.
3. In tough times, remember -- go to Him. He can sympathize.
4. Be willing to suffer with Him.

Discussion Questions:

In light of His example, what should be our attitude and actions towards others.

D. When considering that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

1. You can become rich beyond your wildest imagination this Christmas.
2. Believe on Jesus for your salvation!
3. Live as one Who is rich -- in spite of the outward circumstances of life.

Discussion Questions:

What are the riches that we have with God the Father through faith in his Son?

Conclusion:

Satan wants to blur the ultimate question of life: What, Where, Why? But remember to start with Who?

Discussion Questions:

What would your reaction be if on your birthday people give gifts to each other instead of you, and the purpose of it all gets lost as they sit around "roasting chestnuts by the fire" and singing songs about how nice it is to gather together on such an occasion?

What do you think God the Father's reaction is as he sees the world celebrate the gift that he gave in sending his Son into the world? How about the reaction of Jesus?