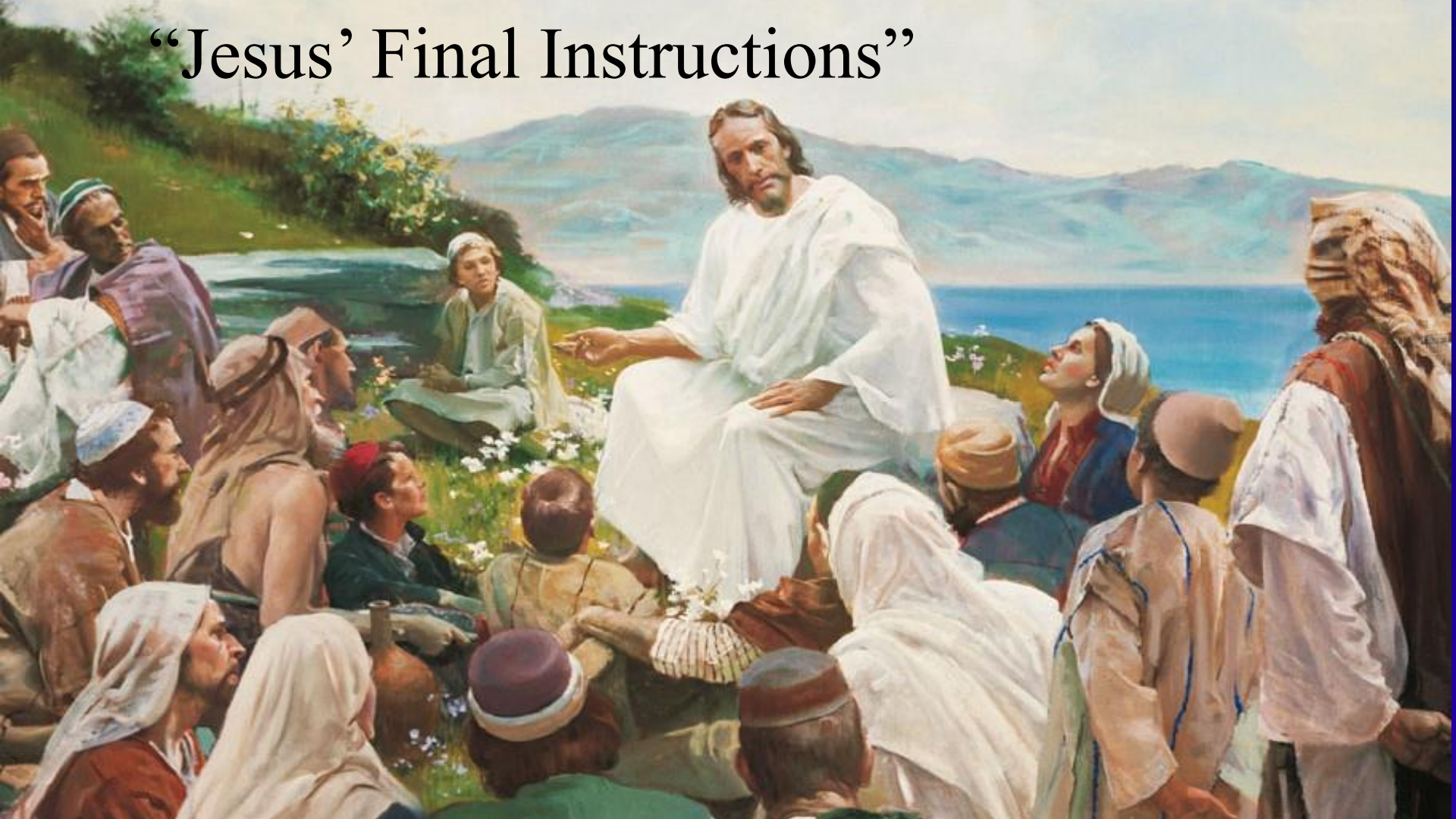


“Jesus’ Final Instructions”



Jesus' Final Instructions to His Disciples

John 21:20-25

I. Be Careful Where You Look (v. 20)

Problems begin when we take our eyes from the
Lord onto others

Jesus' Final Instructions to His Disciples

John 21:20-25

“If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest.” —Corrie ten Boom

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2)

II. Careful What You Consider (vv. 21-22a)

People change, but not that much

We are prone to think about someone else and
want to meddle

II. Careful What You Consider (vv. 21-22a)

"For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Corinthians 10:12)

II. Careful What You Consider (vv. 21-22a)

"Take heed to yourself" (1 Timothy 4:16)

"Keep a critical eye on your own life"—Phillips
Translation

A.W. Tozer

“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.

A.W. Tozer

So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship.”

III. Be Careful Who You Follow (v. 22b)

Are you following people, or are you following
Christ?

Whenever you follow people, you will be
disappointed

III. Be Careful Who You Follow (v. 22b)

“I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephass,’ or ‘I am of Christ.”

(1 Corinthians 1:12)

First and foremost, follow Christ

How to measure whether you are following Christ

*Be where He is: "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also." (John 12:26)

In all circumstances

In all relationships

In all decisions

How to measure whether you are following Christ

*Do what He does: "I have given you an example that you should do as I have done."

(John 13:15)

Jesus was faithful and obedient

Jesus was patient

How to measure whether you are following Christ

Jesus was honest

Jesus was holy

Copy and emulate what Jesus does

*Suffer for His sake: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24)

How to measure whether you are following Christ

Take yourself off the throne

Put Christ on the throne

Willing to die to your dreams, ambitions, goals

IV. Be Careful How You Wait (vv. 23-25)

The last words of Jesus recorded by John are about His return and waiting for it

As we wait for the Lord's return, be careful

Not to cling to rumors, hear say, etc.

Stick to the study of God's Word

IV. Be Careful How You Wait (vv. 23-25)

Understand the Scripture

You never know what it says to you personally,
unless you know what it said to them personally

Never know what it said to them personally
unless you examine carefully

IV. Be Careful How You Wait (vv. 23-25)

You never know what it said to them personally
unless you examine carefully

"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures
nor the power of God." (Matthew 22)

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

"I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piece-meal, hit or miss;
Now a bit of 'John' or 'Matthew,'
Now a snatch of 'Genesis.'

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

Certain chapters of 'Isaiah,'
Certain "Psalms,"—the twenty-third,
Twelfth of 'Romans,' first of 'Proverbs.'
Yes, I thought I knew the Word.

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

But I found a thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

You who like to play at Bible dip and dabble here and there just before you kneel or weary and yawned through a hurried prayer.

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—

Reading through the Bible, by Amos R. Well

Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible THROUGH."