Bible Study/ Sunday School Lesson
for The Andrew Paradigm
Chapter 12 and Conclusion – Lead Followers Pay the Price
(pp. 83-97)
Mark 10: 35-45
To the Teacher: Thank you so much for agreeing to help lead a study of the topics in this great book! This Bible Study is intended to do more than just rehash the material in the book. It will seek to stay on topic, but not simply regurgitate the words of the author, recently retired United Methodist Bishop Michael Coyner. We will take a closer look at the bible passages covered, discuss some of the study questions (and some others I will add) and more. All of the following is meant solely to be helpful to you. There is probably more to do here than you can fit into your class session. I rarely use any curriculum exactly as it comes to me – I add stuff, subtract others – in other words, I make it my own. Please feel free to do that yourself! Use all of it or none of it, as you feel led.

Session 12 – Chapter 12 and Conclusion

Opening Prayer – Crucified and risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, you suffered and died to pay the price for our sins. You sacrificed greatly for our sake. That’s how much you love us. That’s how far you went to save us, while we were yet sinners. Whatever you ask of us, it doesn’t even begin to compare to what you’ve already done. In this time of study, help us to hear what price you ask us to pay to further your kingdom on earth, so that it might be more like the one in heaven. AMEN.

I. Introduction

Today is the last week of our study on The Andrew Paradigm. If you are still using this curriculum, I (Shannon) sure thank you! It’s been a lot of extra work for me, but it has also served to refocus me on being a lead follower of Jesus in various ways. I hope this study has been a benefit to you. This final lesson focuses on the way that lead followers of Jesus leave their egos at the door. Coyner points out that ego can stand for Edging God Out. We’re going to take a
look at several scripture that talk about paying the price in various ways, and even at how the Apostles paid the price.

II. Bible Study

Referencing the third of the beatitudes, Bishop Coyner asks us to reflect on the difference between meekness and weakness.

Read Matthew 5:5.

According to Coyner, the biblical word for meek comes not from a lack of assertiveness or strength. Instead, it comes from the same word to describe a “powerful stallion that is well-trained to serve his master.”

The Serendipity Bible for Groups suggests that a meek person is someone who can say, “I have come to the place where I don’t have to be the strong one all the time. I can be tender and gentle with people. I’ve given the control of my life to God and I don’t have to ‘win’ all the time.”

Discuss –
1. How do these definitions of “meek” affect the meaning of the verse for you? How do they square up with the nature of the other beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12)?
2. Do the two definitions agree in your mind, or are there “irreconcilable differences?”
3. Using these definitions, how would one go about becoming more meek?
4. Seeing as the name of the chapter we are studying today is “Lead Followers Pay the Price,” what price might followers of Jesus pay for living a meek life?
5. What are the benefits of living a meek life?
III. Jesus and Success

One of the more thought provoking sections of this chapter, found on p 87, says the following –

“We follow a Jesus who did not “succeed” by many of the typical measures of success. He risked failure by the typical measures in favor of a higher purpose. Jesus probably never traveled more than about one hundred miles from his place of birth and his upbringing. He had virtually no possessions, other than a robe that his executioners gambled to claim. He had friends and followers, but most of them deserted him when he was arrested, convicted, and executed. Certainly the power groups and authorities of his day saw him as a failure. His only title “mocked” him from above the cross from where he died. He was buried in a borrowed tomb. “

Then he asks us to discuss the following questions –

1. Was Jesus a failure? Why or why not?
2. How should we define success in the face of the Gospel story of Jesus?

I add the following questions –

1. In what ways should the church define success or failure?
2. What kinds of risks should the church be taking today?
3. Can being willing to look like a failure to further the cause of Jesus and the Kingdom be a way of living a meek life?
4. What price do we pay for living by different standards of success?

IV. “Can you drink the cup I drink or receive the baptism I receive?”

Read Mark 10:35-40.

This is the passage Bishop Coyner chose to serve as the theme for this last chapter of his book. We’ll be studying a longer version of this passage during worship.
1. What allusions to communion and baptism do you hear in this passage? How does it aid in your understanding of what Jesus is saying here?

2. Coyner quotes Donald Juel, who said “In baptism and the Lord’s supper, the faithful share Christ’s destiny.” How is this true for the Christian, both in the thrill of victory we have in Jesus and the agony he suffered for us?

3. Look up Isaiah 51: 17-22. Many believe that the allusions to the cup in Isaiah are echoed here in Jesus’ words. Does the “bowl of wrath” described here apply to Jesus words in the passage from Mark 10 you just read? How?

4. What does it mean to be willing to drink from the cup Jesus drank from and to be baptized as Jesus was?

5. Are you willing to pay the price Jesus asks?

V. Bonus Materials – How did the Apostles end up paying the price?

During Jesus’s lifetime, the disciples often didn’t get what Jesus was saying and failed him in various ways. But post-resurrection, post-Pentecost, they did great things in his name and spread the gospel far and wide. I’ve attached a couple of short documents on the fate of the Apostles. Apart from a couple of them whose fate is described in scripture, most of their later work and deaths is based on long-regarded legends and traditions. We can’t be sure of most of them. Different sources tell somewhat different stories. But, if even some are true, they bear witness to the cup of suffering that they endured to pass the gospel on to future generations like us. As you share their stories with the group, I encourage everyone to contemplate how small a price most of us have been willing to pay in comparison!

VI. Close with prayer.

July 9 – Chapter 12 and Conclusion – Lead Followers Pay the Price
Jesus’ death on the cross, as described in the New Testament, has become one of the most famous events. But what happened to the 12 disciples who were his closest followers? Not as much information has survived about their fates, but here is what’s available from various sources, including the New Testament itself, apocryphal texts, early Christian historians, legends and lore.

• **Simon, AKA Peter:** Simon-Peter, who was appointed by Jesus the leader of the new sect, is viewed by Roman Catholics as the first pope, was eventually martyred in Rome during the reign of the emperor Nero. As the story goes, Peter asked to be crucified upside down, so that his death would not be the equal of Jesus and the Romans supposedly obliged.

• **Andrew:** According to 15th Century religious historian Dorman Newman, Andrew—the brother of Peter—went to Patras in western Greece in 69 AD, where the Roman proconsul Aegeates debated religion with him. Aegeates tried to convince Andrew to forsake Christianity, so that he would not have to torture and execute him. But when that didn’t work, apparently he decided to give Andrew the full treatment. Andrew was scourged, and then tied rather than nailed to a cross, so that he would suffer for a longer time before dying. Andrew lived for two days, during which he preached to passersby.

• **James (son of Zebedee, AKA James the Greater):** Acts 12:1-19 says that James was killed with a sword. The newly-appointed governor of Judea, Herod Agrippa, decided to ingratiate himself with the Romans by persecuting leaders of the new sect. After James was arrested and led to place of execution, his unnamed accuser was moved by his courage. He not only repented and converted on the spot, but asked to be executed alongside James. The Roman executioners obliged, and both men were beheaded simultaneously.

• **John:** John was the only one of the original disciples not to die a violent death. Instead, he passed away peacefully in Patmos in his old age, sometime around 100 AD.

• **Philip:** Philip, the first of Jesus’ disciples, became a missionary in Asia. Eventually, he traveled to the Egyptian city of Heliopolis, where he was scourged, thrown into prison, and crucified in 54 AD.

• **Bartholomew:** Bartholomew supposedly preached in several countries, including India, where he translated the Gospel of Matthew for believers. In one account, “impatient idolaters” beat Bartholomew and then crucified him, while in another, he was skinned alive and then beheaded.

• **Thomas:** Apparently Thomas preached the gospel in Greece and India, where he angered local religious authorities, who martyred him by running him through with a spear.
• Matthew: According to legend, the former tax collector turned missionary was martyred in Ethiopia, where he was supposedly stabbed in the back by an swordsman sent by King Hertacus, after he criticized the king’s morals.

• James (son of Alphaeus, AKA James the Less): According to Foxe, James, who was elected by his fellow believers to head the churches of Jerusalem, was one of the longest-lived apostles, perhaps exceeded only by John. At the age of 94, he was beaten and stoned by persecutors, and then killed him by hitting him in the head with a club.

• Thaddaeus, AKA Lebbaeus, Judas or Jude: According to several stories, he was crucified at Edessa (the name of cities in both Turkey and Greece) in 72 AD.

• Simon the Canaanite AKA the Zealot: Simon preached in Mauritania on the west coast of Africa, and then went to England, where he was crucified in 74 AD.

• Judas Iscariot: According to Matthew 27:3-6, the treacherous apostle quickly felt remorse over his betrayal of Jesus and went to the Temple to recant. When the high priests ignored his plea, he threw down the 30 pieces of silver that he had been paid, and went off and hanged himself. But Acts 1:15-20, gives a different and even grislier version of Judas’ demise. He says that Judas used the blood money to purchase a piece of land and then fell headlong from a high place there, so that “he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.” Jerusalem residents subsequently named the place Aceldama, which means “the field of blood.”

  ▶ From nationalgeographic.com

Here’s the link --

  ▶ http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/killing-jesus/articles/how-did-the-apostles-die/
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE APOSTLES AND WHERE ARE THEIR REMAINS TODAY?

ST. JOHN
Remains: Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome, Italy
Death: Stabbed with a sword

ST. MATTHEW
Remains: Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome, Italy
Death: Stabbed in the stomach with a sword

ST. JAMES THE GREATER
Remains: Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Death: Beheaded with a sword

ST. JAMES THE LESSER
Remains: Basilica of St. James, Compostela, Spain
Death: Stabbed to death

ST. PHILIP
Remains: Holy Apostles Basilica, Rome, Italy
Death: Stabbed by soldiers

ST. PETER
Remains: Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, Rome, Italy
Death: Beheaded with a sword

ST. ANDREW
Remains: Basilica of St. Andrew's Church, Rome, Italy
Death: Crucified on an X-shaped cross

ST. THOMAS
Remains: Basilica of the Apostle, Ortigia, Italy
Death: Thrown with a spear

ST. JUDE THADDEUS
Remains: Basilica of St. Jude, Jerusalem, Israel
Death: Filled with arrows

ST. BARTHOLOMEW
Remains: Basilica of St. Bartholomew, Rome, Italy
Death: Beheaded

ST. MATTHIAS
Remains: Basilica of St. Matthias, Amalfi, Italy
Death: Crucified in Judea

INFORMATION FROM: CHURCHPOP.COM

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