

## Christian Education Class – Following Jesus on Campus

### Class 2: Developing a Biblical worldview (part 2) – Biblical examples

#### Review:

-Last time we looked at the idea of “Worldview” = a way of looking at the world; a way of understanding/making sense of what’s going on in the world

-A worldview is grounded on a set of basic assumptions, which impact we person think about different issues and shape our thoughts and actions

-Seeing and acting in the world with the assumption that God exists and that His Word is true will often put us at odds with people and situations around us, even within Christian circles – so called ‘going against the grain’

-We looked at a few scenarios last time where how we understood the world would change the way we act (e.g. the environmentally-conscious friend and the campus Christian group)... consider two more scenarios, this time outside of Christian friends

1. It’s Friday night and you’ve just finished a long week of exams. Your roommate Drew (not a Christian) is going out clubbing with a bunch of his friends and insists that you join him to have fun and ‘loosen up a little’... “What’s the matter?”, he says. “Can’t Christians have a little fun too?... didn’t that Jesus guy turn water into wine?... he would’ve had no problem with alcohol... I don’t think he would have disapproved of a little dancing either” With that he’s dragged out by his friends, still insisting all the way to the parking lot that you come join him... what would you do?

2. You’re into your second week of classes, and busy as ever. But there’s one class you’re especially looking forward to...2<sup>nd</sup> year quantum physics... because there’s a cute girl/guy who you caught a glimpse of in the row in front of you last class. At the class break you muster up the courage to go up to them and open your mouth to say.... ‘ullo’. They laugh seeing how nervous you are. Before long you’re chatting it up and agree to meet up for coffee. “He/she’s just so nice...”, you think to yourself. You’ve broached the subject of religion a few times, and each time they’ve said they aren’t religious but are open to learning more... Over the next few weeks as you get know each other better, it’s pretty clear that feelings are developing... and they seem to be mutual. What would you do next?

-Remember we said last time that there isn’t such a thing as a dormant worldview... having a worldview different than people around you will always put you at odds with them... because they don’t understand you and because what you stand for runs counter to what they stand for

-But living according to the Bible means living a God-centred life

-There are many examples of men and women in the Bible that show us what it means to have a biblical worldview; and because the Bible is the Word of God, though the people did not have the Bible as we have it today, they had the law of God

-Today we’re going to look at a few examples of those who lived with a God-centred worldview; you’ll see a common theme

In your groups, read the following accounts and discuss ...

### I. Caleb & Joshua – Numbers 13

-Israel is at the edge of the land that God had promised them and are about to send spies into the land to scope it out; spies would be one from each of the 12 tribes

-What is their mission?

→ "...see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes." (13:18-20)

→ check out how strong and how many their enemies would be, and how rich the land was

-The land was rich! What account did the spies give (13:27-29, 31-33)?

→ "And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.""

→ the land was indeed rich... but the people were were strong, and their cities were large... and there were numerous adversaries that populated everywhere

→ they compared themselves to 'grasshoppers' before their enemies

-But a couple of men had a different response. What do we read in 13:30?

→ Caleb declares that though the people were indeed strong and scary, they would overcome it because of God's promise to bring them to the land

-Read Numbers 14:6-9. What examples do we see here?

→ Caleb and Joshua were both among the spies, but unlike the other spies, they believed in God's promise to deliver them

→ "If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us,(K) a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, **for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.**"

-The congregation's response was to stone them because what they believed, how they saw their enemies, was completely opposite to the others

### II. Peter (Acts 3:14-16,19; Acts 4)

-Peter and John are preaching the gospel of repentance to the people after they heal the lame man and are arrested by the Jewish leaders

→ boldly accuses the Jews of murdering Jesus, who was the 'author of life'

-What did the Jewish leaders think about Peter and John? What was their attitudes towards them?

→ they were ‘greatly annoyed’ at them, arrested them and put them in jail (14:2)

-But before the high-priestly council, **even in front of the high leaders**, Peter and John throw accusations against them for rejecting Jesus and putting Him to death

-Peter attributes the healing of the lame man to Jesus Christ – i.e. as clear as the man was healed, is the truth of all that Peter & John were preaching about Jesus – while Jesus healed the physical need of the man, He is more importantly the one who heals the spiritual need (“...for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – 4:12)

-What were the qualifications of Peter & John? Why did the high-priests react the way they did?

→ they were uneducated, ‘common’ men... and the leaders ‘were astonished’ – why were they astonished?

→ God uses the weak to shame the strong, the simple to shame the ‘wise’

→ they were astonished by both their boldness and the message they were preaching

-What did the leaders do to try to contain the message? Look carefully at Peter & John’s response. What worldview did they have? How did this worldview guide the way they acted?

→ They resorted to trying to silence them (v.18) but v.19-20:

→ “But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge for we cannot but speak of **what we have seen and heard.**’”

-Later they would be arrested yet again and forcefully commanded yet again by high priest to preach the gospel (5:18). What was John & Peter’s response?

→ Peter and the apostles answered “We must obey God rather than men.”

**Wrap-up:** so what does this all mean and how should this apply to our lives?

→ A biblical worldview means looking at the world through the lens of the Bible

→ for these men of faith, a biblical worldview meant having a God-centred view of their situation

→ No matter how much peer pressure to think like the world, remember that as Christians, we ought to strive to understand the world as God has commanded us to

→ There are only two ways for a Christian to look at the world... through the lens of the world, or by faith through the lens of the Bible

-Example of Caleb & Joshua

→ What challenges are you facing that seem too big to conquer? How should you face these challenges in light of all that the Bible says and in light of God’s promises

→ Relationships, your studies, a sin you’re holding on to, family conflict?...

→ What we need to see from the example of Caleb & Joshua **wasn’t the challenge of entering the Promised Land, but rather, the One upon whom they set their eyes on.**

→ Their focus was on obedience to God... they listened and obeyed and their hope was placed beyond their situation

→ What is your situation today? Consider the encouragement of God’s promises and commands:

-“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?... Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” – Matt 6:25, 31-33

-“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, **set your hearts on things above**, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” – Col 3:1-4

#### -Example of Peter & John

→ When we view the world through the promises of God in the Bible, there is boldness and courage in how we live... because we have nothing to lose and everything to gain!

→ Obeying God will cost us, and sometimes cost us a lot (they were imprisoned multiple times and persecutor); but can we **help but preach what we have seen and heard?**

→ And what it is that we have seen and heard? We haven't seen Jesus per se, but we have seen the reality and impact of the gospel in our lives and in others' lives!

→ We have heard and read the Scriptures that tell us that God, in His love for us, sent His only Son to die for us on the cross to redeem us from all the brokenness and darkness in the world.

→ 'preaching' does not necessarily always mean telling or saying, but it means having boldness to live a godly life, even when it's counter-cultural and others are telling you to do  
 -let what you have seen and heard (and believed) about Jesus shape how you think and act and give you boldness to stand firm in the Bible as you weather the storm of worldly influence