

The Simplicity of Faith
CFG Study Guide for May 15, 2016
Luke 10:25-42

1. How does Hebrews 11 speak to the theme of simplicity?
2. Bruce said that the life of faith is simple but not easy. What did he mean by this?
3. What should we conclude about Mary when we see her sitting at Jesus' feet? Did this mean Mary was not serving Jesus but Martha was? What is it to "sit at the feet of Jesus?"
4. Why is it important to realize that in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is no longer answering the question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" but the question, "Who is my neighbor?"
5. The priest and Levite justified their behavior and excused their lack of compassion. In what way(s) are you prone to do the same thing?
6. How does the parable of the Good Samaritan teach us that when you try to justify yourself, you are no longer free to simply obey God.
7. What does it mean to "nuance" your obedience? Why is this dangerous? How can we guard against it?

DISCUSSION HELPS:

Question 1

The believers in Hebrews 11 acted out of faith. Faith believes what God says and obeys. It doesn't complicate the issue with excuses or rationalizations.

Question 2

Simple means uncomplicated. The life of faith is simple trust and obedience. But the life of faith is not easy because it means trusting God rather than ourselves. We are drawn by our sin to trust ourselves rather than God. It is only by God's grace, not our own effort, that we can live by faith.

Question 3

By sitting at Jesus' feet, Mary was serving Jesus by worshiping Him. She was declaring His worth by giving His words the highest priority. She was taking in His Word in order to respond in obedience.

C.H. Spurgeon said that Sitting at Jesus' Feet indicated several things.

"It indicated, in Mary's case, a readiness to believe what the Saviour taught, to accept and to obey—nay to delight in, the precepts which fell from his lips.

"To sit at Jesus' feet implies faith as well as submission. Mary believed in what Jesus said, and, therefore, sat there to be taught by him.

"But sitting at Jesus' feet implies, also, that having submitted and believed, we now desire to be his disciples.

"Sitting at the feet of Jesus indicates the child-like spirit of true discipleship; and this is the one thing needful."

Sitting at one's feet is to act as their disciple, a learner, a follower. It includes not only listening to what they say but following their teachings.

Question 4

If we think Jesus is answering the first question, we will conclude that we can be saved through loving others or obeying the law.

Question 5

Answers will vary.

Question 6

Because since you cannot obey the law, you nuance and redefine the law until you can obey it. Your focus is on yourself and the law, not Christ.

Question 7

Nuancing obedience is seeing shades of meaning and application when there are none. It's seeing complications when God's command is simple. It's dangerous because it leads us away from Christ. When our conscience starts going into overdrive to justify or defend our actions or lack of actions, then we are probably nuancing our obedience.