



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 146 - Where's Your Crown? (Acts 1)

Jesus' Disciples Still Don't Get It

Jesus' work on earth is nearly complete. His time to depart is close at hand. Finally, the disciples understand why He had to die, but they still don't understand God's plan for the history of this fallen world.

- Why were the disciples inclined to think Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom?
- What are some of the ways TV evangelists and other Christian preachers fall into the disciples' trap of expecting a paradise on earth now?
- How can you explain God's purpose for trials and suffering in this world to someone who is struggling through problems in his or her life?

Our Real Focus and Calling

Jesus never denies He will set up His glorious Kingdom on earth eventually. But that won't be until Judgment Day. In the meantime He shifts our focus to the here and now.

- Why is it so easy for us to concentrate on the future (weekends, vacations, some future attainment) rather than on the present opportunities God gives us?
- Why is it crucial to take time and contemplate our future, especially the coming of Christ's Kingdom of glory?
- How does worship's weekly focus on eternity help you deal with the day-to-day struggles of life on earth?

Jumping the Gun?

The Bible has many accounts of believers who felt they had to do something, instead of wait around for God's timing. Sarah thought her maidservant Hagar would give Abraham the child of promise (Genesis 16); Moses murdered an Egyptian to begin delivering Israel (Acts 7:23-29); King Saul offered a sacrifice when Samuel the prophet was delayed (1 Samuel 13:8-14).

- Describe a time when you jumped the gun and didn't wait for God's timing?
- What advantage would there have been in waiting?
- Why is it so hard for us to wait for God's perfect timing?