

**WS: LET'S REVIEW — Holding phrases for the four Gospels.** Memorize the following four statements! These hold the key to understanding the four Gospels.

**MATTHEW:** Jesus' Teaching Manual for living the deeply satisfied life;

**MARK:** Our mission is to awaken those spiritually asleep;

**LUKE:** Jesus and Jesus' message is the same;

**JOHN:** The meaning of our baptismal experience.

## **TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

#### **# 13 Topic: "Hard Sayings" -- with commentary**

**NOTE:** According to the Luke Chart, there are 9 hard sayings in this theme. My plan is to take them in 4 sessions. Today's scriptures are:

**Luke 8: 19 – 21: "Jesus' Mother and Brothers;" Luke 12: 49 – 53: Not Peace but Division."**

The purpose of the Gospel of Luke is told in the opening verses in the first chapter, ". . . it seemed good to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." It is this "orderly account" that provides the organization of our study material. **This is lesson number 13 of 31.**

**Read the assigned THEME at one time.**

#### **I. Luke 8: 19 – 21: "Jesus' Mother and Brothers"**

**Answer these questions:**

**NOTE:** In each of the eight scriptures in these "Hard Sayings" the underlying theme is "Judgment." For many Christians, the judgment of God is not easily understood, if at all. Consequently, it is first helpful not to make the topic something to study. Instead, think of it in terms of relationships.

Second, it is helpful to apply the axiom "The reward for the deed is found in the deed itself." An illustration is helpful. When we do things that please others as well as ourselves, the reward for our deeds is the experience of deep satisfaction and a sense of peace. Conversely, when we do things that hurt, and drive others away, the reward for our deed is the experience of people are hurt and are separated from us.

Now apply this principle to the following questions.

#### **1. What is the lesson Jesus is teaching in this story?**

**WS:** The IHOP men struggled with this for awhile. One observation is that by this time Jesus' father, Joseph, was dead. Also, the "brothers" mentioned would be half-brothers, because they were the offspring of Joseph, while Jesus is the offspring of God.

I share this with you because it illustrates how easily we fall into Head Trip Analysis. In this kind of thinking, Jesus is an object to be studied, rather than a relationship or an experience. To make Jesus an object is to get into abstract thinking about the human dimensions of family relationships.

From a Gut Trip Analysis, this event in Luke describes the special relationship of Christians as those who are awake spiritually and as human/humane individuals. In this

way, we fulfill both our intended purposes for which we are created—to be human/humane—and our purpose as spiritual families.

Again, not to make too much of this, but it intrigues me concerning the frequency of the gospel writer's use of the term "outside;" "your mother and brothers are standing *outside*. (vs. 20b.) According to Gut Trip Analysis, "outside" is the place of spiritual sleep." On the other hand, inside with Jesus always is the place of awakenment. For what it is worth.

## 2. What is the significance of vs. 21?

**WS:** The IHOP men struggled for several minutes defining what it means to be "those who hear God's word and put it into practice." Then, the group went back to our Gut Trip roots to define The Good News as: **God does not make no junk; our Present is received as a gift**, and this is why we call it the Present; **our past is not only forgiven but it is forgotten**; when these things are affirmed then **our future is open and hopeful**. This is THE GOOD NEWS that we are not victims, but victors!

How do we put this into practice? We be it! We embody this truth. We embrace this experience.

**Note this caveat:** In 1964 I had the profound experience of being deeply awakened to the reality and truth of Gut Trip Analysis. My excitement was unbounded. I wanted to be unleashed to share the sense of enlightenment with others. Shortly afterward, I returned home to meet my wife, whom I wanted to both share my new enthusiasm as well as to experience it. I had what I thought was a profound conversation with her, which for a time only alienated the two of us for a brief time. The danger in using family relationships to demonstrate profound awakenment can result in separation instead of At-One-Ment.

Did this happen to Jesus as the result of this experience? I'm going to side with tradition and say no. I say this because the apparent purpose for which Luke includes this story is to illuminate the reward (judgment) associated with not fulfilling our intended purpose that is "to hear God's word and put it into practice." Your struggle with this verse above will reflect this purpose.

## II. Luke 12: 49 – 53: "Not Peace but Division.

### 1. Vss. 49: What is the "fire" Jesus wants to bring? What will it accomplish? (Associate the "fire" with judgment. What is the reward that is promised for our deed?)

**WS:** The word "judgment" is understood by applying the axiom "The reward for the deed is found in the deed itself." When we do hurtful and mean things to others, the "reward" is separation for others. When we do nice things for other, the "reward" is that people are drawn to us.

The "fire" Jesus brings is that of separation of those who are spiritually asleep and those who are spiritually awake. This is the judgment. Those who are spiritually asleep, their reward is to live in separation, and they personally experience meanness, anger, mistrust, etc. Jesus wants us to live the abundant life as the whole, wholesome human/humane beings we are created to be.

### **What is your experience with this kind of fire today?**

**WS:** Any experience that results in separation is kindling for the spiritual fire. **What is the baptism Jesus must undergo? (Associate his “baptism” with his death and resurrection. What is the significance of this Christ Event that can be applied as a reward for our misdeeds?)**

**WS:** Jesus confesses to a “baptism” that he must endure. The consensus of the IHOP is that this baptism refers to his impending death on the cross and the resurrection.

To understand the significance of this Christ Event it is necessary to do a Gut Trip Analysis on the terms “death,” “cross,” and “resurrection.” In this way we recover the following experiences: 1) like Jesus, we die to living spiritually asleep; 2) on the other side of this death to in-authenticity, we experience the resurrection like that of Jesus, a resurrection into wholeness, health, and authenticity as human/humane beings; 3) the experience of death and resurrection becomes the operating ethic of WWJD—What Would Jesus Do?

### **2. Vss. 51: Give an illustration on where you see the kind of division Jesus describes.**

**WS:** This year’s political process is a prime example. War always is wood for the spiritual fire. The concept of a “just war” still results in separation; however, sometimes it is necessary to do surgery, provided it does kill the patient in the process.

### **3. Why does Luke include this scripture in his gospel?**

**WS:** When this scripture is seen in the larger context of Luke 12: 35 through 13: 9, it is easier to understand why Luke used the theme of “Not Peace But Division.” Luke 12: 35 - 48 is the theme of “Watchfulness.” Luke 12: 54 to 13:9 has the themes of “Interpreting The Times,” and “Repent or Perish.”

**All right, folks. Talk to me.**