

...the main points again

Learning devotion from Lassie- how to be a willing servant...

An Old Testament technical term,

The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD

- NIV Study Bible note on Numbers 18.14

A life irrevocably handed over to God?

NO such thing as a half devoted life...witness Solomon,

He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been

- 1 Kings 11.3-4

...and the teaching of Jesus,

No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

- Matthew 6.24



Gethsemane devotion

Devotion to God...

More than a feeling

- A life best devoted with the support of others
- A life that embraces all of us- our emotions as well as our reason
- A life that is worked out through the struggle of prayer

Christ's perfect devotion to God

Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Philippians 2

Saved by being found in the perfectly devoted Christ

BUT more than this...

Your attitude should be the same as...

Christ's perfect devotion to human beings

Disciples wakened to devotion in Christ...warned not to drift off and be betrayed...

...so what...

What do you associate with the word 'devotion'
What would you say you are devoted to in your life?
What might a consideration of the way you spend your time and your money suggest you were devoted to?
How does this relate to your faith?

What do you make of the NIV Study Bible note which suggests that in the Old Testament 'devoted' is a technical term describing
...the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD

Consider the use of the word 'devoted' in some or all of the following texts:

1 Kings 11.3-5; 1 Kings 15.1-3; 2 Chronicles 17.5-6, Joshua 6.17-19, 7.10-12 and Matthew 6.24

What emerging understanding of the concept behind this word are you finding?

Read together Matthew 26.36-46

Share together your emotional response to this passage.

You might like to pray around this or think about the text from the perspective of different people in the narrative...

Would it be right to see Jesus as a person perfectly devoted to God?

Discuss this

Would it be right to see Jesus as a person perfectly devoted to human beings? Discuss this

How do you respond to the struggle of Jesus in this account?

How does he work through his struggle towards a resolve to act in a certain way?

What might we learn from this?

Consider together the advice of Jesus in Matthew 26.41

How do we avoid drifting off?

How important is it to keep vigil with Jesus?

Sunday September 7th

love is...



Devotion

'Devoted'

Matthew 26.36-46