



Sermon Discussion Guide - *January 27, 2019*

SERIES - HONOR: On The Way To A Life Worth Living

Guest: Teresa Kashale

SUMMARY - Everyone wants to be held in high esteem; to be honored. What is held as honorable is based on the values of a particular community and for the Christian community values are determined by God and his Word, the Bible. One way to pursue a life worth living is to practice what James calls pure religion: pursuing a life of purity and taking care of orphans and widows. Teresa Kashale has a profound story of life and faith. She has pursued a life that honors God and has brought great honor to her ministry Theresa's House.

DAILY STUDY & PRAYER

Read / Reflect / Respond

(*READ* the verse, take a moment to *REFLECT* on its meaning, *RESPOND* by writing down some thoughts and praying)

Monday - Proverbs 14:31 *"Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him."*

Tuesday - Matthew 25:40 *"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"*

Wednesday - James 1:27 *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."*

Thursday - Psalm 68:5 *"Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation."*

Friday - Matthew 6:3 *"But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,"*

Saturday - John 14:15 Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*

GROUP DISCUSSION

(*This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss or supplement with your own materials*)

Open with Prayer

1. What is something you remember from the sermon that stood out to you or never heard before?
2. How have you seen God honored in the life of Teresa Kashale? How has God honored her?
3. There is a difference between a religion about God and a relationship with God. A religion is suppose to support the relationship. According to James 1:27, how does religious activity as described in this verse help sustain our relationship with God?

Close with prayer requests and prayer

NEXT STEPS (Optional for group discussion)

1. TEMPERATURE GAUGE – How am I doing with honoring God through religion?
2. RESPOND – How is the Lord calling me to respond? In confession and repentance? Prayer for help and guidance? Seeking out a confidant or listening ear? Take a moment to write down one action step.
3. PRACTICE – What is one way that you can incorporate or practice "pure religion" in your week?



Sermon Discussion Guide Leader Notes

Preparing to Lead Your Group

- ✓ **PRAY** for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. *Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group!*
- ✓ **PLAN** where you want to take your group during the next series. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives?
- ✓ **EVALUATE** after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what didn't. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Review the discussion guide and sermon notes for this week. You can also view the sermon from our website, www.faithunitedepc.org. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group.
- Feel free to adapt the format as needed. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, consider using the Next Steps section or add additional Scripture and resources. Remember this is only a guide and you don't have to complete all of it. It is a tool to promote good discussion. The goal is good discussion not necessarily getting through every question.
- The questions with Bible verses associated with them are there to encourage Bible literacy. So encourage different people to open their Bibles and read selected verses if they are willing and able.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.