



Objective & Subjective Direction
Women's Discipleship Class – August 8, 2019

Verses Covered This Week

John 6:52 – 69

2 Peter 1:20 – 21

2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

John 10:34 – 35

Matthew 22:29 – 32

2 Peter 3:15 – 16

Luke 16:29 – 31

Galatians 1:15

Acts 13:2

Acts 16:6

Due to technical difficulties with the audio equipment, the opening segment of the class did not get recorded.

And when they met, the Jewish Christians finally said, “Alright, here’s what we’ll do. We’ll give up circumcision.” But there were a couple things they wouldn’t give up. And one of the things that they refused to give up, they gave up circumcision for was eating meat with the blood in it. It was hugely offensive. And if you grew up in a Jewish home, you did not ever eat meat with the blood. If you went to somebody’s house and blood was coming out of the meat, you put the plate away, you refused to eat. It was an extremely personal and offensive thing in Jewish life. So they gave up circumcision, but not eating meat with the blood in it.

Now I want you to listen, then if you understand that, to what Jesus begins to say in 6:52.

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, you drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵My flesh is true food, My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on My and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he also will live because of Me.”

And then when you drop down, look at verse 60.

⁶⁰When many of His disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying. Who can listen to it?”

It was incredibly difficult. And so here’s Jesus’ response in 62.

⁶²So what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Look in verse 66.

⁶⁶After this, many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

So He’s run off how many people? 15,000. He’s not stupid. He grew up in a Jewish home. He knew what the response would be. As a matter of fact, I don’t know any young pastors who would ever preach today on that passage. It’s offensive to us. So it was terribly offensive to them. He knew He was running off 15,000 people. So He says, “Do you take offense at this?” And then look down.

⁶⁶After this, many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.”
⁶⁷He said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Now that very statement implies what? If we had somebody else, we’d be gone.

⁶⁹You have the words of eternal life. We have believed and we have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

Now that, John chapter 6, is the essence of what a disciple is. You’re not a disciple because you go to eight Bible studies. You’re not a disciple because you raise your hands when we sing in worship. You’re not a disciple because you cry at songs in the worship service. You’re not a disciple because music does it for you. You’re not a disciple because you enjoy reading the word of God. You’re a disciple, when you come to the point where you’re so sure, now I want you to listen to me carefully. You’re so sure of who Jesus is that it doesn’t matter what He says or how He says it, you’re yielding. Even if what He says is offensive to you and bothers you and wears you out does not matter. A disciple is somebody who says, “I do not care what You say or how You say it, I’m so sure of who You are that I’m going to yield to anything you say.” Now that is the goal of what you’re going to do. If that’s not your heart, then you’re not a disciple; maybe a believer, but you’re not a disciple.

So now He says that it was the Spirit that was speaking that. And so this is what we’re going to look at tonight. You’re going to spend your life, and the only way you’re going to do this, you’re going to spend your life listening to the Spirit speak to you objectively and subjectively. Now I’ll explain that in a second. But you’re going to take whatever the Spirit tells you to do objectively,

which is the written word of God, and subjectively, what He says in your heart. It won't matter what the Bible says or what the Holy Spirit says to you. You're going to yield to it because you're a disciple. If you're not here, then you're not a disciple.

So we're going to cover a little bit of ground. Look at 2 Peter, chapter 1:20 – 21. Now I'm going to fly through these verses. I'll write them on the board, but you're just going to have to, I don't know, fly with me. 2 Peter 1:20 – 21. Now we're going to look really quickly at a couple things, but I want you to understand what the Bible says about itself. Now what we're going to look at here in this section is key. The thing we're facing today in in the church, in the Southern Baptist Convention we fought over the truth of the Bible from 1979 to about 2005. We're the only denomination that won the battle for the Bible. Now all six of our seminaries you can't be a professor there, I had to sign several statements and articles of faith on the fact that I was locked into the scripture. We won that battle. But the problem I see today is we have our youth coming up and, for example, they are now wrestling, they'll tell you they believe the scripture's true, but only as far as it isn't something that is offensive to them. I see our youth, for example, struggling with the idea that homosexuality is a sin. And the reason they struggle with it is not because they don't think the Bible teaches that, but they go to school with people that are same sex that are friendly, nice, kind, generous. And so they look at them and they look at some Christians who are not friendly, not nice, not kind, and they sit back and think, "Well they manifest the quality of Christ better than these people do." And pretty soon you find them trying to take those kind of passages that speak against homosexuality and go, "You know, I'm not sure that part is true." And so you have to come to a place where you believe that the entire Bible is written by the Holy Spirit. So I'm going to walk through a little bit tonight, and again I'm going to fly, listen to 2 Peter 1:20 – 21.

²⁰Knowing this first of all, no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Now I'm going to run through several verses and then I'll come back and explain a couple things. Now slide over to 2 Timothy and hold 2 Peter. We're going to come back there in a minute. But go to 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17. That's to the left and really beginning in verse 15. He says:

¹⁵How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to make you wise for salvation and through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God

And when you see the word breath in the New Testament; you see breath, you see speak, you see wind, you see spirit. They all come from this Greek word, *pneuma* (πνεῦμα), we get pneumatic from the Greek word. Anything that's wind controlled, but breath and wind and spirit, they're pretty much the same agenda. And so when he talks about something being breathed, it's a metaphor for the work of the Holy Spirit. So when he says all Scripture's breathed out by God, that is, came through the Holy Spirit,

profitable teaching, reproof, correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

So we have the Scripture's totally true. It is profitable for us in every single way. But it's obviously not going to be profitable for you if you're not living in John 6. So now look at a couple things with me. Look at John 10:34. So that we're clear, I want you to listen to what Jesus said. Slide back to the left again. Keep going left. If you get to Genesis, you've really gone way, way too far. Now listen to what He says.

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS?'" ³⁵If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and Scripture cannot be broken),

Now He's very clear. The Scripture cannot be altered. Now slide over to Matthew 22 and I want you to look at something with me. Matthew 22:29 – 32. Now slide over to Matthew 22. Now listen to what Jesus said. Now the question is always how detailed is this. For example, it is true, if you're a first year Greek student you go into the gospel of John because the Greek's very easy. You go into the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, you go into Paul's letters it's a little harder. You go into Luke's books; Acts and the book of Luke, maybe even Hebrews, there's argument that he wrote it. The reason there's argument that he wrote it is because the professor that's judging my dissertation that I just turned in believes he wrote it. So in this church, we believe he wrote it. Now the Greek is far harder in Luke's writings than it is in John, than it is in Paul. Which indicates that each man had his own gifting and that the Holy Spirit did use men inside their personalities and inside their giftedness. Now the question is always, well how deeply inspired is it? This is the answer. Now look at Matthew 22:29 – 32. Now the Sadducees always had the argument, they didn't believe that there was a resurrection of the dead and they had the big argument about all this different stuff and if a guy was lady was married several times and then she dies, whose wife is she? Now here's Jesus' answer to that.

²⁹You're wrong, you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰In the resurrection, they neither marry or are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven. ³¹For the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said by God; ³²I AM the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He's not the God of the dead but of the living."

Now listen to what Jesus just did. He based in Matthew His entire belief that you will live forever on a verb tense. He says, "When you read it in the Old Testament, God didn't say 'I used to be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Or, 'I was the God.'" He said, "I still am the God." His argument for you living forever in Matthew is based on a verb tense. So when the Holy Spirit uses different guys and different Greek and different personalities and all this bologna, listen. It doesn't matter because obviously the Scripture is so true, it's true all the way down even to verb tenses. You're going to pay great attention to this because it's absolutely accurate. And it's always the question: "How did they know?" Because I always here this. Well the Bible was really put together in the 4th century. No. Look at something with me. Look at 2 Peter 3:15 – 16. I want you to listen to what Peter writes. Now listen.

¹⁵Count the patience of our Lord as Salvation; just as our beloved brother Paul, also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters, when he speaks to them in these matters, there are some things that are hard to understand which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction as they do the other Scriptures.

So what did Peter just say? That Paul's letters were what? They were the Bible. Now Paul and Peter die what year? Anybody remember? 68 A.D. They died right before Titus invades Jerusalem. So by the mid 60's, you've already got Peter saying that Paul's letters were part of the Bible. So they saw in the New Testament days that Paul's writings were the Bible. Paul obviously saw Peter's writings that way. And so the Bible, simply the church realized what books were legit, what books were not legit, they put them in the canon by the end of the first century. And so there was no fourth century declaration of the Bible. Peter acknowledges at least part of the Bible in the New Testament is based on what Paul wrote. And it's interesting because not everything Paul wrote got in the Bible. We know when you read 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians there were two other letters to the Corinthians that Paul wrote that we don't have anything at all listed of. So there are parts of what Paul wrote that the church looked at and said, "This is legit." And other parts they said, "No, this is not legit." So the Bible is absolutely Holy Spirit inspired, written by Him, down to verb tenses, and it was proven in the day it was written people knew exactly what it was.

Now here's how powerful it is. I want you to look at the gospel of Luke. Look at chapter 16:29 – 31. Now some call this a parable. It's probably not because there's a man named in it. In this parable, rich guy dies and goes to hell. A poor guy dies and goes to heaven. The rich guy looks up and sees him, begs for water, guy says, "Can't come. Big chasm between us." So listen, and we'll really start in verse 27. Listen to what he says.

²⁷Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house – ²⁸for I have five brothers – that he may warn them lest they come into this place of torment. ²⁹But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them." ³⁰He said, "No father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they'll repent." ³¹He said to them, "If they don't hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

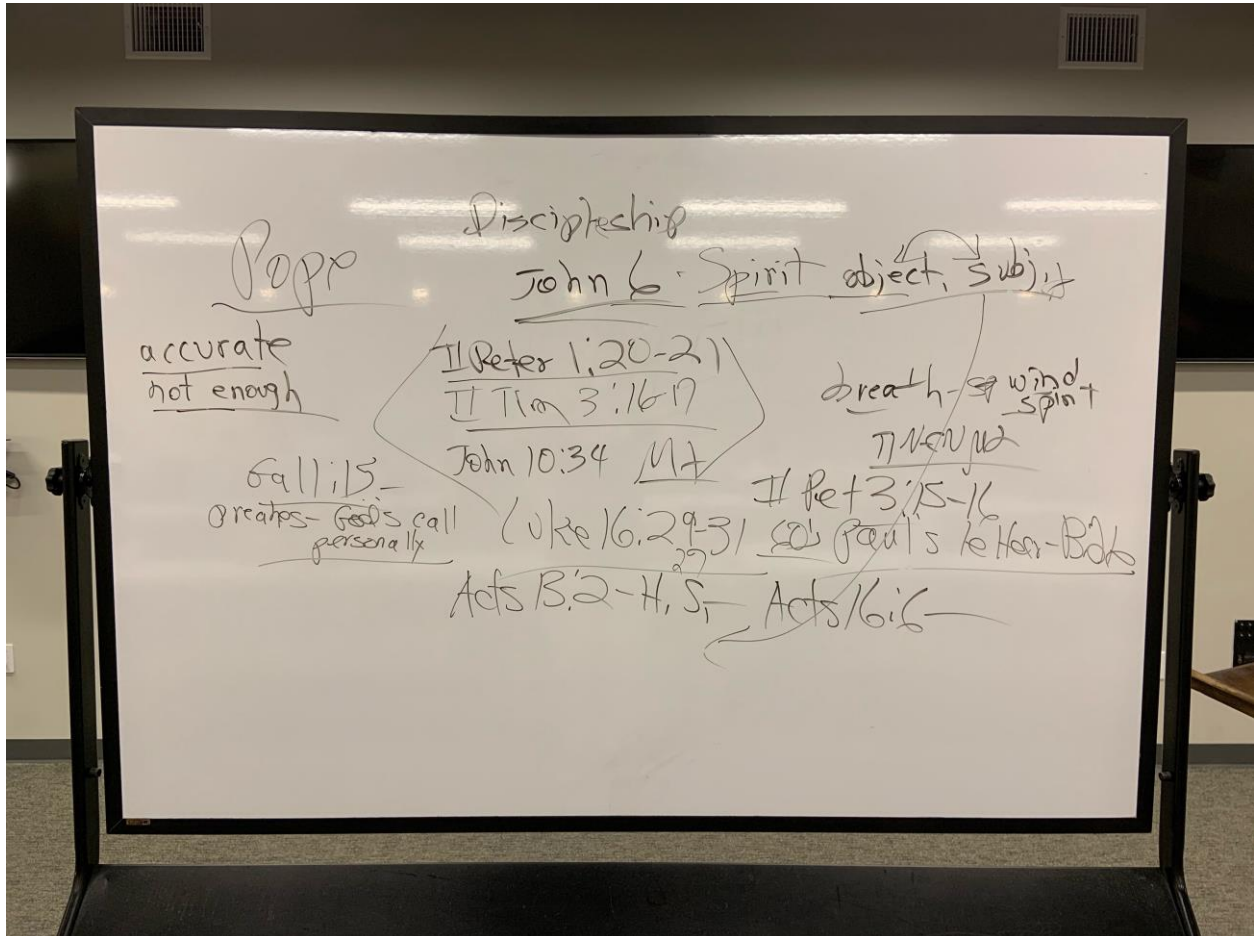
So here's what you have. This Bible you have in your hand, if you're not a believer and you don't listen to this and it doesn't convict you of who you are, even if this floor opened up and a man straight out of hell came up and said, "You need Christ." And went straight back down, it would not affect you in any way at all. This book has the power to completely transform. So understand, objectively, that is what is written in the Scripture is written by the Holy Spirit for our instruction. It cannot be broken. It's based on verb tenses. They knew what the books of the Bible were long before Peter and Paul died. And it's so powerful that it's more powerful than someone rising from the dead smoking like he's been in hell. So the book objectively, and so this book is the Holy Spirit giving you objective truth.

Now I'm not trying to inflict guilt. I'm going to say this real nicely. But when you find a verse of Scripture that doesn't agree with your lifestyle and you make this statement, I know what the Bible says, but..... You're not in John 6. This has to govern your life or you're not yielding to the Holy Spirit. And just because you think you see in the Spirit, doesn't matter anything if you don't live in the Spirit. So we have that responsibility.

Now here's the problem you face. Now listen to me carefully. Don't do the Baptist thing on me tonight. Do not go out of here and say I said something I did not say because I'm taking a seminary job and I don't want them firing me because you people lied about me. So let me be careful here. I don't just trust women! No! We're not recording it! OK. Let me write this. Everything in here

is accurate. OK. We good there? Now careful. It's not enough. Because you have to also have the subjective movement of the Holy Spirit in your life. Look at Galatians 1:15. Listen to what Paul says. Now most of us know his conversion, right. He's on his way on the Damascus road

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Questions

Q. You can be a believer, but not a disciple, right?

A. Yes. And Matthew 16 proves that. He was a believer but not a disciple yet. Discipleship is difficult.

Q. Is that why we don't judge because we don't know where people are?

A. Absolutely. I don't think you become a disciple until Jesus has done some work in your life. I mean I was not a disciple. I was saved my junior year, but not a disciple until my senior year when I went through the experience I just went through. It awakened me experientially to who He was and all of a sudden I became a disciple that night. I was not a disciple until then but I was a believer. I think you're right. We tend to pass judgment on people. I still believe, number one, you don't pass judgment on anybody. Number one,

you don't pass judgment on kids until they're 35. You've got to give them some time. Their brains don't completely form until they're 25. We've got Annalee here who works in our Special Needs who can't even rent a car.

Q. Can you lose the discipleship?

A. Oh, yeah. I think that's a great question. You can't lose your salvation, but I think you definitely lose your discipleship. Peter lost it. How do we know that? I talked about it Sunday morning. After resurrection and everything else. When did he mess up? When he was sitting with all the Jews eating lunch. Gentiles come in. He jumps up and walks over to the Gentiles. Discipleship does not mean perfection. But I do think, here's my whole deal in life. I'm walking towards hell this way. Holy Spirit speaks to me. Turns me around. I start walking towards Jesus. Now there are people walking toward hell who step off and do some good stuff. There are people that don't know Jesus that take care of poor people. There are people that don't know Jesus that have been married 50 years. They accidentally step into some good stuff. As a believer, I'm now walking towards Jesus. I'm going to step aside and make some mistakes. But, and this is another lesson but since we're on it now, a couple things are going to happen. When I step aside, the Holy Spirit is going to convict me. Now I can go, "I don't care." Then God will discipline me. I can say, "I don't care." And then God will probably bring someone in my life. And then if that doesn't work, according to 1 John 5, He'll take me home because I'm a believer and I have to be a disciple. We're going to stumble at moments. But discipleship is not walking in perfection; it is walking consistently in this direction. Even after I was saved and not a disciple, even though there's that one year when I was walking as a Christian, not a disciple, I walked over this way, but I never turned away from Christ. I never renounced Him. So I don't think you ever lose your salvation and I think discipleship is a process. And even when you reach the point where you go, "OK, Jesus, whatever You say, I'm in." You're still going to make mistakes. And Jessica's question is so right. I think we do have a tendency to beat each other up when we don't really know each others heart. We need to be real, real careful.

Q. Is discipleship synonymous with justification?

A. No. discipleship is synonymous with sanctification. You have justification which will get you saved. Sanctification is discipleship. Glorification is when you die. Yeah, that's a great question.

Q. For clarification: objective is what the Bible says and subjective is when Christ speaks to you?

A. Oh that's exactly it. That's exactly it. And I think it is the right question. It's not a stupid question. The objective is exactly everything in the Bible. Subjective is when He speaks to me outside the Bible, but confirmed by the Bible. That's why the Bible's accurate, but not enough.