

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Israel Series Mount Nebo – “Following God’s Direction” Deuteronomy 32:48 - 53 & 34:1 - 7

1. Read and consider the following verses –
Deuteronomy 32:48 - 53 & 34:1 - 7

2. The name ‘Mount Nebo’ is not very familiar to us.
What was its significance?
It is of great importance - H _____
S _____

3. Why did God take the Israelites out of Egypt?

4. How long should the journey have taken? How long did it take?

5. What are the two reason that the journey took so long?

6. When they arrived at Kadesh Barnea 12 spies were sent out who were given the task of finding out 4 things, and they took 40 days doing so. What were those 4 things, and what did they report?

7. Consider the content and importance of the spies report; and what was the conclusion of 10 of them?

8. What was the immediate response by the people to the report, and what was God’s response?

9. Read Deuteronomy 32:50 – 52 and 34:1 – 8
Consider why Moses was barred from entering the Promised Land.

10. Why do you think Moses struck the rock instead of just speaking to it?

Final Thoughts

There is always a danger in Christian life and work
that we take what God did sometime before,
imitate it and make a formula of it.

As we apply this we then proceed totally in our own strength,
working with our own means, with no dependency upon God.
– the dependency is on ourselves and on the formula.

Moses paid a high price for his disobedience;
instead of recalling WHO performed the miracle last time,
he thought of the HOW.

It is never about 'HOW' we can accomplish what He has called us to do,
but always about 'WHO' has called us to the task.

Message Guide

A synopsis of the message
given by Hilary Price

Nazareth – “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”
Luke 4: 14-21

1. **Message Focus** - **Nazareth**
Can any good thing come from here?
2. **Two Amazing Announcements were made in this place**
 - I **Mathew 2 v.23**
So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets,
“**He will be called a Nazarene.**”
 - ii **Luke 4 v.14 – 21**
The announcement by Jesus,
“**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”
3. **Response to Jesus’ response?**
 - I **Initially good. Luke 4 v.22**
 - ii **Then turned hostile, and tried to kill Him. Luke 4 v. 28 – 30**
4. **“Can anything good come from there?”**
The well-know comment attributed to Nathaniel in John 1 v.43
5. **Nazareth – a small ‘hick’ town of maybe 120 – 500 people.**
Not even worth a mention in the 63 towns of Galilee recorded in the Talmud.
6. **It had no value, plus a bad reputation.**
A person coming from Nazareth were despised by others.
7. **Consider - Born in a non-descript town.**
Nazarenes despised by other people.
Born in a cow shed.
Born in a manger.

It is remarkable that God chose to send His Son to be born in such a place.

Quote from Hilary

God specializes in entering the lives of people who are despised by others, lives that other people have decided will never amount to anything, lives which have been written off as unimportant and insignificant.

8. Man looked at Nazareth and saw nothing good; but through God’s eyes Nazareth was altogether different, so,
Can anything good come out of Nazareth?
The answer is a resounding YES. Jesus Christ came out of Nazareth!

Quote from Hilary

We see despised places and we write them off; we see despised people and we write them off. We see little things and never believe they can become big things.

Quote from Hilary

I have often heard people say – particularly men who have been impacted where their dads have said to them from a very early age, “You’ll never amount to anything” – that’s a terrible stigma to grow up with.

I always believe your children live up to, or down to, your expectations. If you keep telling them they are an idiot, they will become an idiot. If you keep telling them they are no good, they will be no good. [but] If you have great expectations in the sense of encouragement – not grades, but fulfilling the potential of who God created them to be, they will grow up to be their lovely selves.

9. Consider the ‘Water Into Wine’ miracle in John 2 v. 1 – 11

Can anything good come out of this situation?

10. Running out of wine at a wedding – a social disaster in that cultural context.

- I Public shame for the couple.
- ii Possibly a lawsuit and a fine.
- iii Lose of respect in community.
- iv Fight with the in-laws.
- v. Bad way to start a marriage

11. Mary does 3 things –

- i She INFORMS Jesus of the problem.
- ii She INVOLVES Jesus in the problem.
- iii She INVITES Jesus to deal with the problem.

12. Mary does NOT try to tackle the problem herself.

In verse 5 Mary says this massively important statement –

“Do whatever He [Jesus] tells you.”

Quote from Hilary

We are very good at keeping all our problems to ourselves. When Mary come to Jesus with her problems she does not say, “This is the problem and this is what I would like You to do about the problem.

She had no idea what the solution might be; and she must have been amazed at the solution that He came up with. In her wildest dreams she would never have dreamt He would turn 6 water pots into wine.

Message Guide & Questions

Israel Series **Sea Of Galilee – “Trust and Obey”** **Matthew 4:18 - 23**

1. Read and consider Matthew 4:8 - 23
2. Read Luke 4:6 - 21
In Nazareth Jesus dropped a bombshell. What was it?

3. The focus today is on Mathew 4:19
What are the two tasks introduced here; and who is to do what?

4. We learn things by what Jesus taught verbally, but how is the ‘making’ accomplished?

5. There were two important events that happened in Galilee within a 24 hour period.
What are these events? Where did they happen?

6. Why was Jesus sad at this time, and what was He trying to do?
When He saw the crowd, what was His reaction? Read Matthew 14 v.14

7. In verse 15, what was the problem that the disciples brought to Jesus?

8. Examine the 3 possible solutions on offer here.
 - a. The people should go and buy food for themselves.
Matthew 14 v.15. Consider this!
 - b. Read verse 16 where Jesus challenges the disciples.

9. How much is Philip learning so far?

10. Who presented the third solution, and what was it?

11. What was it that both Philip and Andrew missed in their assessment of the situation?

12. What did Jesus do?

Read vs. 10 – 11 ... pause to reflect, and then read verses 12 - 13
What had happened? What did Jesus do? What is the key?

13. 'Giving Thanks' is the key to the Christian Life. Please read the following :-
1 Thessalonians 5 v.18; Ephesians 5 v.20; Colossians 1 v.12; Colossians 3 v.17;
Philippians 4 v.6 -7

14. Later, when Jesus walked on the water He was again testing His disciples. He wanted to see if they had learned anything from the feeding of the 5,000. How did they do? Read Matthew 14 v.28 - 32

Final Thoughts

There is a great danger that when we don't understand something
our hearts get hardened against it.

We like to be in control - and we become fearful when we are not.

Sadly it seems that the longer we are a Christian
the greater is our tendency to seek solutions that are workable and manageable.

We plan and strategize, leaving God out of the equation.

We think only in terms of *our* resources and *our* abilities.

Read again Romans 1:21

When you learn to 'give thanks in every situation,
you express two very important things -

1. Your complete and utter dependency on God.
2. His complete and utter sufficiency for the task.

Finally, don't be too hard on the disciples.

We are blessed to be able to learn from their mistakes.

Message Guide & Questions

Israel Series **The Garden Tomb – “He Is Risen”** **Luke 24:1 – 8**

1. Read and consider Luke 24:1 – 8
2. Can you remember some of the tombs that Charles Price has visited?

W _____ C _____

J. _ K _____

L _____ J _____

Q _____ V _____

E _____ P _____

C _____ M _ _

3. The Garden Tomb is that of the most famous man in history; but what is the feature about this tomb that none of the other have?

4. Can you name the 5 possible reasons why the tomb was empty?

5. Let's examine these reasons. i – ‘The Disciples Stole the Body’.

Read Matthew 28 v.12 – 15

What was the disciples' expectation? What was the disciples' reaction?

6. ii The Jewish or Roman authorities moved the body.

This is what Mary Magdalene thought had happened.

Read John 20 v.2 and John 20 v.13, but consider the reaction of the authorities.

7. iii He had not really died.

Some claim he had not died so it was not a r _____ ,

but a r _____

8. iv The tomb was not empty; those who claimed to see Him were hallucinating.
For an answer to this read Luke 24:37 – 43
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9. So, where does this leave us?
Jesus is Who He says He is and He **was** resurrected from the dead.

Final Thoughts

The Resurrection of Christ gives **Proof**. Read Acts 17 v.31
The Resurrection of Christ gives **Power**. Read Philippians 3 v.10
The Resurrection of Christ gives **Promise**. Read 1 Corinthians 15 v.17 - 20

At the Resurrection – death loses its sting, and the grave loses its victory!

The empty tomb is a foreshadowing of our own empty grave.
It demonstrates to us the victory of Christ over sin, defeat and death!

Message Guide
A synopsis of the message
given by Hilary Price

River Jordan (Bethany)
“A Voice Crying in the Wilderness”
Matt. 3:1-3

1. Message Focus - John The Baptist

2. Discusses various ‘partings’ in scripture

- i Escaping from the Egyptians, the Red Sea parted.
- ii When Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised land the river Jordan parted.
- iii After Elisha returned to Israel after being taken up to Heaven, the water parted.
- iv At other times when God speaks from Heaven, the sky parts.
- v When Jesus was crucified the veil was rent [parted] from top to bottom.

After this there will not be any more need for ‘parting’, because we shall see Him face-to-face.

Quote from Hilary

I don’t know where you are in your life today. I don’t know if you feel as though you have come to a brick wall and it’s not parting, and you seem to have been standing in front of it for days, months, years; and there seems to be no way?

3. Recap of Charles’ sermon entitled ‘Mount Nebo’.

4. Recap of how God made a beautiful world and placed Adam & Eve in it, but they disobeyed, ‘and the relationship that we were created to live in with God, in dependence on Him and in obedience to Him, was broken.’

5. Solution to fixing the problem, ‘God said, “It’s through the man and the woman that the problem has arisen, and it’s through the woman that I will provide the solution.” A woman will have a child and one day He will crush the head of the one who has led human beings astray, who has bruised their heel so that they will always walk through life with a limp.’

- 6. a. **God prepared a nation – Israel**
- b. **God prepared a Tribe – Judah**
- c. **When the nation got stuck in Egypt, God prepared a servant to save them – Moses**
- d. **Because of the people’s need for continual forgiveness – God installed Priests.**
- e. **To keep the people reminded of His plan - God sent Prophets**

7. **Between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament It may have seemed that God was doing nothing, but, in fact, He was constantly, intentionally in preparation during all those 400 years of silence.**

Quote from Hilary

Have you stopped believing in God because you don't see His plan working out in your life? I wonder how many years of silence have been in your life where God hasn't showed up fast enough, where you have started to doubt, where you have ceased to believe, so if you were totally honest you would have to say, "I stopped talking with God."?

Quote from Hilary

So what had God been doing in the 400 years of silence? Had he cobbled together another plan thinking, "Well, this obviously is not working; so I'd better come up with another idea". No, God knows exactly what He is doing.

8. i **God was preparing the way - Politically.**
The Roman Empire created a communication network all over Europe stretching from the Middle East right up to northern Britain. Upon this network people could travel quickly, easily, relatively unhindered.
- ii **God was preparing the way – Academically.**
The Greek language became a universal language, and Greek became the language of the New Testament.

During those 400 years God was preparing the world for the coming of His Son!

Then

9. **God prepared Zechariah and Elizabeth to have a son – Read Luke 1 v.13 – 17**
He was John The Baptist - Read Luke 3 v.3

Read John 1 v.6 – 9, then v.15, and then v.19 – 37

All the planning and preparation, and then to bring John the Baptist on the scene so he could, in turn, prepare the way for Jesus Christ the Son of God.

10. **John the Baptist was just a voice crying out to point people toward Jesus.**
He did not want people fixing their eyes upon him.
Speaking of Jesus in John 3 v.30 he said,
"He must become greater, I must become less."

John the Baptist learned that all important lesson that we must all learn;
"It's not about me. It's all about Him. I know what I am not; I know what I am, and what I am is a voice calling in the desert."

11. **John never saw the end of it.**

He never saw the crucifixion. He never saw his words come true, but he was still willing to do his part – to be that voice crying out in the wilderness.

12. The end of John's life was ignominious.

He had no possessions; his disciples had all left him to follow Jesus, he was thrown into a cell [very difficult for a man who live his live outside in the desert – it was like caging a bird], and his death was by beheading. He received no accolades or rewards from man. His reward was in Heaven.

13. John's was a life of privation; of being misunderstood; of not seeing all that he had prophesied come into being, but through his obedience and willingness to persevere he became one of the most important characters in God's plan.

We can see that as we look back, but John could not have known that in his lifetime.

Finally from Hilary

When you obey you do not know what is going to happen; and what happened because John obeyed is quite remarkable. When he baptized Jesus he suddenly finds himself in the water, standing in the middle of the Trinity. Here is Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove, and God speaks. And John is in the middle of it all, simply because he obeyed.

You might be in a place in your life at the moment where you are standing in the middle of God's preparation for something, and you don't know it!

Just wait – wait in the preparation.

And be ever willing to obey, even if you don't see the end from the beginning.

Like John the Baptist, just point people to Jesus

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Israel Series

Mount Nebo – “Following God's Direction”

Deuteronomy 32:48 - 53 & 34:1 - 7

1. Read and consider the following verses –
Deuteronomy 32:48 - 53 & 34:1 – 7
2. Mount Nebo is of great importance - Historically and Spiritually
3. To deliver them from their bondage.
4. The journey should have taken just 11 days, but it took 40 years.
5.
 - a. Lack of trust in God.
 - b. Disobedience to God.
6.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Find out about the people who live there.b. Find out about the towns.c. Find out about the soil.d. Bring back a sample of the fruit.	<p>Are they strong or weak? Are there many or few? Are they unwalled or fortified? Is it fertile or barren?</p>
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7. Their report confirmed that God was exactly right; the land was flowing with milk and honey, and the fruit that they brought back (grapes) proved it to be so.
BUT
 - a. the cities were large and fortified.
 - b. the people were powerful – large like giants.

10 of the spies concluded that the land of promise would be a scene of warfare; one that they could not win.

We need to realize that God never calls you to do the possible, otherwise you would just do it in human strength.

Two of the spies – Joshua and Caleb – were well aware of what the others had said, but they trusted in the Lord that He would give them the land.

8. Initially the whole assembly threatened to stone Joshua and Caleb.
Read Numbers 14:10 Now read Numbers 14:26 – 35

They were sentenced to spend 40 years in the desert – one year for each day spent spying out the land; and anyone over 20 years of age would not set foot in the Promised Land, except Joshua and Caleb.

9. The answer is found not just in something that Moses did, but in the significance of what He did. Read Numbers 20:1 – 13

Back in Exodus 17:5 & 6 Moses was instructed to strike a rock once; which he did and water came out of it for the people to drink.

The New Testament tells us that this was symbolic of Christ, who was stricken once – one sacrifice – for all our sins. But now we do not approach a crucified Christ, but rather a risen, living, empowering Christ to whom we only need to ‘speak to the rock’.

In Numbers Moses was clearly instructed to only ‘speak to the rock’, but he struck it – not once, but twice, in a clear violation to God’s command.

10. Well, remember, Moses had been in a similar situation once before when he was instructed to strike the rock, and water had come forth. Moses probably thought all he had to do was the same thing again to get the same result. It was a big and, for him, costly mistake.

Each situation with God is uniquely different, each one requiring dependency on God, and not on a formula.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Israel Series Sea Of Galilee – “Trust and Obey” Matthew 4:18 - 23

1. Read and consider Matthew 4:8 - 23
2. In Nazareth Jesus dropped the bombshell by effectively declaring that He was the expected Messiah foretold in Isaiah 61.
3. The first task is something that WE have to do - Follow Him.

The second task is something that HE will do - Make us fishers of men.
4. Teaching 'explains' what is going on, but 'making' occurs through the experiences that we have – and we are usually not aware at the time that we are in the process. We learn lessons from experience – often the experience of failure – and then the teaching of scripture makes sense of what we have learned.
5. The events are -
 1. Feeding of the 5,000 - this happened BY the Sea of Galilee.
 2. Walking on the Water - this happened ON the Sea of Galilee.
6. Jesus was sad because He had just heard that His cousin John the Baptist had been executed by being beheaded, and Jesus just wanted to get alone.
But when He saw the crowd He did not get angry and force them away - He had compassion and started to minister healing to them.
7. There were 5,000 hungry people, it was late in the day and there was no food.
8. a. Obviously the disciples had already discussed the situation and their suggestion was perhaps reasonable. It was an obvious and easy solution. Unfortunately many of us do not get involved in peoples lives because this is the easiest solution – but it does not involved the Lord in any way.

b. Jesus challenged the disciples as to how their solution could be accomplished by asking Philip “Where shall we buy bread for all these people?”
It was a trick question to test Philip, because read verse 6.

It didn't matter if they could find enough food they did not have the resources to pay for it.
9. Philip has learned nothing yet. In fact, his responses - reasonable though they may seem - are only the same as an atheist would have given in the same circumstances.
10. The third solution was presented by Andrew in pointing out that there was a boy with 5 small loaves and two small fish; but Andrew displayed the same lack of faith as did Philip. Read John 6:8 - 9
11. The vital ingredient that both Philip and Andrew missed was - God.

12. It is very simple, but also revolutionary!

vs. 11 **He Gave Thanks!**

He didn't say 'grace'. He gave thanks in dependence on the sufficiency of the Father.

Read John 6 v.23 and noticed that they did not say 'he came to the place where he had fed the 5,000; they said he came to the place where he had 'given thanks.'

13. The act of saying "Thank You" is relating the issue to God. "Putting this into His court with full confidence that He is sufficient".

Read also Psalm 136:1; Psalm 106:47 and Romans 1:21

14. Well, Peter briefly walked well, but then he too took his eyes off Jesus and started to sink. Read and consider carefully Mark 6:51.52 - particularly verse 52.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Israel Series The Garden Tomb – “He Is Risen” Luke 24:1 – 8

1. Read and consider Luke 24 v.1 - 8
2. Some of the tombs that Charles Price has visited are -

Winston Churchill - Oxfordshire, England
J.F. Kennedy - Arlington Cemetery, Washington
Lyndon Johnston - LBJ Ranch, Texas
Queen Victoria - on the Isle of Wight
Elvis Presley - Memphis
Chairman Moa - Tiananmen Square, Beijing, China
3. It is EMPTY – as the angel said to the women in Luke 24:5
4. The 5 possible reasons why the tomb was empty are -
 - i The Disciples Stole the body.
 - ii The Jewish or Roman authorities moved the body.
 - iii He had not really died.
 - iv It was not empty; those who claimed to see Him were hallucinating.
 - v Jesus is Who He says He is and He was resurrected from the dead.
5. Matthew 28 v.12 – 15 tells us very clearly that this was a story concocted by the chief priest and elders.

Remember – the disciples did not expect to see a resurrection. They were away hiding from the Jews. John 20 v.19

But after they met Jesus they became bold and forthright. Within weeks they had filled Jerusalem with their teaching to the extent that ... read Acts 4 v.13

If these men – who did not have the courage to stand for the truth when Jesus was dead – now had great courage, how do we explain the change?

They had not participated in a hoax – they KNEW Jesus was resurrected. Read 2 Peter 1 v.16.

6. Read Acts 4 v.2 and 4 v.33

If the authorities had moved the body, all they needed to do to disprove the resurrection was – PRODUCE THE BODY.

But they never did produce the body.

Instead they resisted the Apostles teaching, but never attempted to refute it.

They did not have the body; and if they did why would they pay the soldiers to say the disciples came and stole the body [Matthew 28].

This is not a credible explanation!

7. Some claim he had not died so it was not a resurrection , but a resuscitation.

For this to have been true he would have had to have been revived in the cool tomb, rise and extract himself from the tightly bound grave clothes, single-handedly remove the heavy stone from the entrance; and then what kind of physical shape would He be in when He appeared to people?

Again, this explanation has no credibility!

8. It is true that at first the disciples thought he was a ghost, but then they touched Him and He actually ate with them.

An hallucination is a personal, subjective experience.

People do not hallucinate about the same thing at the same time; and yet here He was seen by 11 disciples, and on another occasion He appeared to 500 people at the same time.

Again there is just no credibility to such an explanation.