



Sermon Notes: “How to Respond to Scripture”
Heart Work: Pursuing Spiritual Growth — Week 2
John 5:39-40 & Luke 24:13-35
10.25.26

Series Question:

When I open my Bible, am I willing to come to the Jesus I find there?

AT THE HEART LEVEL:

1. Jesus is not asking these listeners to stop caring about truth. He is showing them that the testimony they claim to value leads directly to him.
2. Jesus is describing people who have an open Bible and a closed heart.
3. We can accumulate information while avoiding surrender.

Different postures of hearts: Open Bibles, Closed hearts or Open Bibles, Open hearts

So WHAT:

HEART CHECK 1: Before you read, pray with humility

“Lord, help me understand. Show me what I am missing.
Make me willing to obey what you show me.”

Answer the question: ‘Am I willing to let Jesus change me?’

HEART CHECK 2: Respond before you close the book

‘What is this passage asking of me, here and now?’
One sentence of obedience, confession, or thanks.

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says.
Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”

Life Group ICEBREAKER: When was the last time you had to change what you believed to be true when you were given the truth of what it was?

(BEFORE YOU READ ON, PRAY WITH YOUR GROUP. Following the 'Heart Check' from the sermon)

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: John 5: 31-40

- Name three things that Jesus did that testified about his divinity
- What types of assumptions or barricades did the Pharisees bring when reading scripture?

Read Luke 24: 13-27

- Is there a time where you were distracted and didn't see God walking with you?
- The disciples here were willing to still seek Christ even when they saw him die. Are we willing to go that far as well?

READ: James 1:19-23

- What is an example of just listening to God's word and not applying it?
- What is something that has always stuck with you from Scripture?
- How do we take the next step and become 'doers' of God's Word?

DEPLOY: Two Reps This Week:

1. *The Heart Check:* Pray before you read the Scriptures.
2. *Apply it:* Before you close the book, make an application to your lives.

This week: Start reading, continue reading, and be willing to find the Jesus in Scripture .

Don't Forget:

- **Final Discussion of New Bylaws – Today,** Sunday, October 25 - All church Sunday School to complete discussion of new bylaws to become an elder-led church. Snacks are available in the foyer.
 - a. Read over planned final version of bylaws that members will be voting on the next two weeks: Sunday, November 1st and Sunday, November 8th, 2026. Elders will be on hand to answer questions.
 - b. Verify membership and/or speak with the elders about becoming a member possibly today or in the near future.
 - c. Note: After today, new memberships will not be completed until *after* voting is completed on Sunday, November 8, 2026.
- **Voting on New Bylaws:** Sunday, Nov 1 and Sunday, Nov 8, 2026: *Members* of ECC will be voting on the new bylaws to become an elder-led church. Voting will take place during an all church Sunday School.
- **Books are in:** Jerry Bridges' *The Pursuit of Holiness* – pick up your copy at the Welcome Desk. Your book will have your name on it. Three extra copies are available on a first come first serve basis if you didn't put your request in last week.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for your Word and for its faithful testimony to your Son.

Forgive us for the times we have used our knowledge to protect our pride.

Forgive us for studying truth while resisting the response it requires.

Give us humility to listen and courage to repent.

Let your Word bear fruit in our homes, our relationships, our work, and our church.

For those who feel discouraged, renew hope. For those who are resisting you, soften their hearts. For those who are seeking you, help them trust you. Make us people who receive the testimony of Scripture and come to the Savior to whom it points.

In Jesus' name, Amen.