

## **Crazy Love – Study Guide**

### **Chapter 5: Serving Leftovers to a Holy God**

#### **Surprise!**

I think most of us like good surprises, but we never liked the surprise that began, “Take out a piece of paper and clear off your desk.” We all know that feeling of being unprepared for the pop quiz. As a teacher I didn’t mind giving them, but for the pleading students they knew they were going to be examined on whether or not they were listening to the lectures and whether or not they read the chapter they were supposed to.

We don’t like to be examined because it exposes us, but that is what chapters 4 through 10 are intended to do. They are to expose who we really are and what we really believe in. Maybe some of you got a taste of this as you examined your heart in the last chapter. The purpose of chapter 4 was to “Examine your heart for Christ.” This week will be, “Examine your life as a disciple.”

I remember growing up in church and when I heard testimonies of missionaries and pastors, I thought they were the “spiritual” ones and the rest of us were ordinary Christians. This separation does not exist in the Bible. Jesus taught that His disciples live for Him and His kingdom. Disciples understand that this life is only temporary and so are the things in it. Disciples follow and obey God’s Word, rather than our desires and what the world says. Disciples believe that glorifying God in our lives is our ultimate goal.

May this chapter give us a clearer picture of what it means to live as Christ’s disciple.

In the future, I hope all of us will be surprised when we stand before Jesus’ throne and hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” And I earnestly hope none of us are surprised with, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

**Last Chapter’s Key Thought: Your Heart for Christ.**

**Key Thought for This Chapter: Examine your life as Christ’s Disciple.**

#### **For Your Mind**

1. Write down the main point of the chapter.
  - a.
2. Go to the Crazy Love website and watch the video for chapter 5. Francis speaks about this difference between disciples and Christians. Before watching this video, did you think there was

a difference between the spiritual ones (missionaries, pastors, small group leaders, etc.) and Christians? What are the dangers of thinking there is a difference for those who just see themselves as “Christians?”

3. Open your Bible and look up the following verses. Write down what the author is teaching next to the verse.
  - a. James 2:19:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. 1 John 2:3-4:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Matthew 16:24-25:
  
4. A newer Christian comes up to you after reading chapters 4 and 5 and says to you, “After reading these chapters I don’t think I’m a Christian, I’ve given my life to Jesus, but there are still areas in my life where I sin.” What would you tell this person? Re-read the bottom of page 87 and the middle of page 88.

### **For Your Heart**

5. Turn in your book to page 86 and read the second, third and fourth full paragraphs. Have you ever asked or wanted to ask a mature Christian one of these questions or similar ones? What kind of heart do these questions reveal about the person asking them?
  - a. Fill in the blank with your own words or with words you hear quite often from others:  
*Can I \_\_\_\_\_ and still get to heaven?*

6. "God wants our best, deserves our best, and demands our best." During the days of Malachi, the priests were not offering to God their best, rather, they were offering their leftovers. Francis writes, "The priests of Malachi's day thought their sacrifices were sufficient. They had spotless animals but chose to keep those for themselves and give their less desirable animals to God. They assumed God was pleased because they had sacrificed something" (91). Read Malachi 1:8. Create a list of things that Christians give to God as leftovers.
  
7. Being as honest as you can, discuss with the group any doubts you had with your salvation or your relationship with God after reading this chapter. Where did this chapter leave you?

### **For Your Life**

8. There are often many reasons we have for not following Jesus. One of the more common is fear, although we rarely admit it. What is one thing that Jesus is asking you to do? One thing you know He's asking of you, but you're afraid of? What is the worst that could happen if you followed Him in that way? What's the best?
  
9. We are all programmed to worship, as Christians we are to worship God, but there are times when we worship the things of this world. Identify three "idols" that you have been worshipping recently. What can you do to break free from worshipping these idols and turning wholeheartedly to Jesus?

### **Challenge for the Week**

Writer Annie Dillard says, "How we spend our day is, of course, how we spend our lives." Pick a day from last week. Beginning with the moment you awoke, go back through the day and write down everything you can remember regarding how you "spent" the day. We don't save time: we just spend it. Don't embellish or fudge the truth; just write down your day. Is that "day" reflective of how you're spending your life? Don't answer too quickly.

Now pick a day that is coming up and try and live that day giving your best first to God. Here are some examples:

- Giving the beginning of your day to be with the Lord in His Word (yes, even before opening the sports section of the newspaper or the latest magazine).
- Giving God the first few minutes of each new hour to quickly pray with Him (Set a timer).
- Think about how you can encourage someone during the day.
- Spend your commute listening to worship music.
- Tell someone about what God is teaching you.
- Eat with a grateful heart to God.
- Pray for your child before they go to bed.
- Use your sanctified imagination to live for God!

Before going to bed ask the Lord, "Did I fulfill what you asked of me today?" You can also reflect if you saw God work in your life.