

STUDY GUIDE

Confession: “The more you need it, the less you want...”

Read Gen 3: Adam and Eve- created in God’s image and likeness; when God created Man He *breathed* the breathe of life into man’s nostril; then God gave command “DO NOT eat of Tree of Good and Evil or shall surely die.” - not about natural life and physical body but God’s life (the divine) died within them. When God confronted Adam, not about coercing a *confession* but wanted *contrition* but blamed on Eve who blamed on the serpent, “...the serpent **beguiled** man (*charmed or enchanted someone in a deceptive way*)”

QUESTION: What did you think of the story Scott told of stealing albums, lying to his parents; his Dad’s reaction and how Scott’s remorse changed his life?

VERSE: “*Christ paid a debt he did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.*”

QUESTION: What did you think of the story Scott told about visiting a friend who was suicidal?

Question: What happened when Scott’s professor taught about Leviticus 5-6? What did he feel compelled to do?

Kimberly Quote: If you don’t sin against the Light, He’ll give us more.”

QUESTION: Why did Scott become disillusioned by his protestant church parishioners? What personal theology did he struggle to change?

QUOTE: “*People would rather be clever then come clean for what they had done.*”

When Scott was studying to be convert to Catholicism, he posed a question to Msgr Bruscha (now Bishop Bruscha of Lincoln, NE) about confession. What do you think about the Bishop’s reply to the Scott’s question “I don’t go to a priest *instead* of Christ, I go to Christ first and then I go to a priest because that is what Christ instituted as a sacrament.”

THINK ABOUT THIS: Regardless of health of a Dr, the medicine he prescribes will help us just as if he is in the best health.

Scott: “Where is this found in the Bible?” (Gospel of Mark: Friends lowering paralytic and Jesus forgives his sins.” The external miracle was to validate that Jesus had the power and *authority* to perform the first one by restoring divine life through forgiveness of sins.”

Jesus introduced something very radical and new: Divine life is eternal and of greater value than natural life that is temporal and earthly

John 20: 21 – Jesus appears in upper room; give apostles divine authority, divine power as he *breathed* on them and they received the Holy Spirit – whose sins you forgive are forgiven but if you retain, they are retained. How could that happen unless the sinner told someone who had authority to forgive.

James 5:14-16 – “If any among you is sick, let him call for the elders of the Church, pray over him...If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.”

NOTE: You don’t confess your sins to God, He already knows what you have done; we confess so we know all that He has to heal and can do better; just as tell a physician so he knows what medicine to prescribe

After absolution, Scott states he felt as though Jesus had reached down through His Mystical Body and forgave him; he felt free.

QUESTION: What was the purpose of a “day of mercy” at Scott’s home? Is this something you can practice?

QUESTION: What was your reaction to the story of the Pope and the beggar priest?

The more we allow ourselves to be consumed by the beauty and power of the truth. The more our kids are going to see it and the less they are going to need a lecture or punishment

Our goodness is not the cause of God’s love; God’s love is the cause of whatever goodness we have.

Confession is the dirty work; reconciliation is why God has us confess; penance is how we make it real