

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 12:12-19

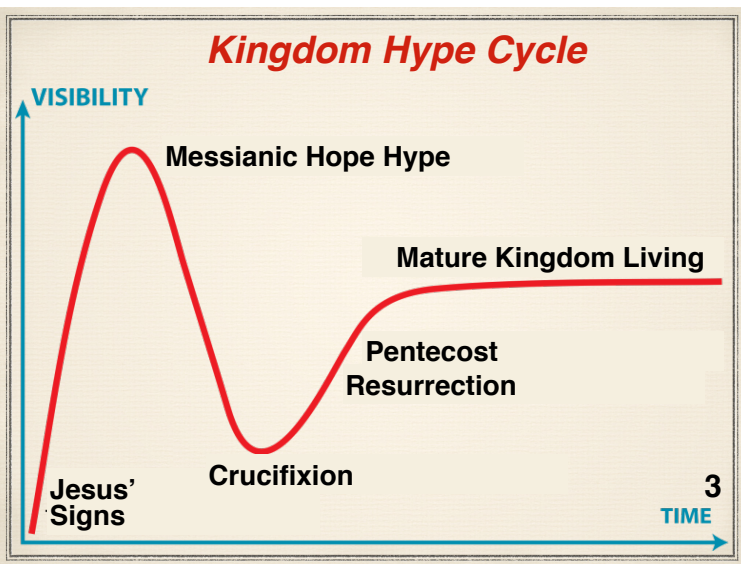
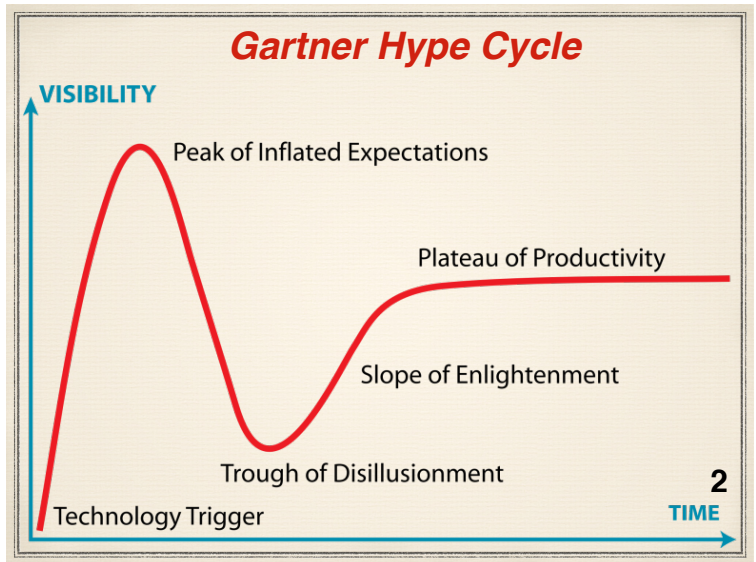
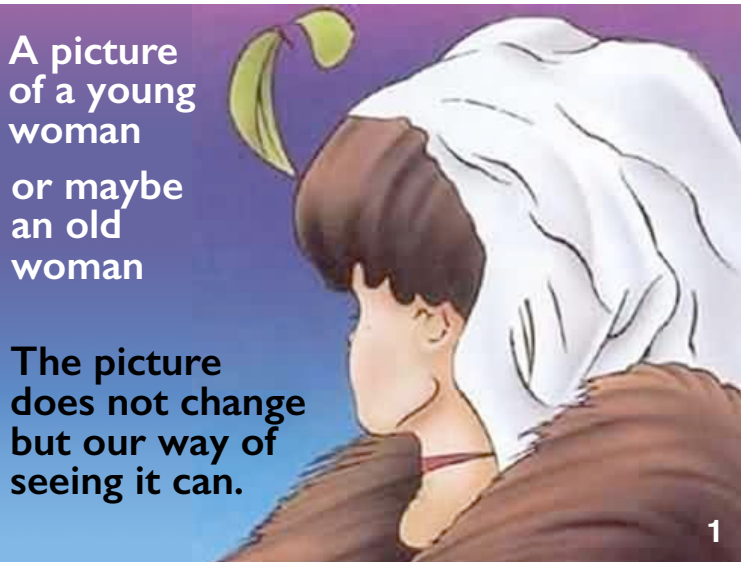
Lesson #42

Disillusionment

05/22/2016

What you should learn from this lesson

1. The danger of disillusionment with Christian faith.
2. Some common disillusionments of faith.
3. Three ways to avoid disillusionment with faith.
4. Four ways we can misunderstand Scripture and be disillusioned.



Easter Sunday

Truth #2
The false hopes of Palm Sunday were not resurrected at Easter.

Good Friday

Truth #1
Palm Sunday's hopes had to die so Easter's hopes could come.

Palm Sunday

4

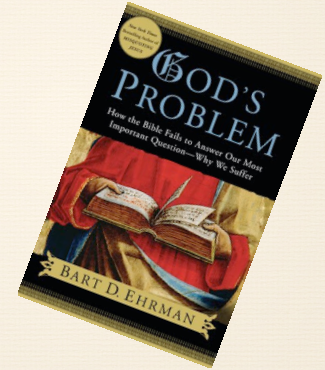
Disillusionment is a big challenge in life

especially the
Christian life.

5

“I just began to lose it. It wasn’t for lack of trying. But I just couldn’t believe there was a God in charge of this mess.”

Dr. Bart Ehrman



6

How can we avoid the “pit of disillusionment” in our faith?



7

John 12

“12 On the next day the great multitude who had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took the branches of the palm trees, and went out to meet Him, and began to cry out, “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,’ even the King of Israel.” 14 And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written, 15 ‘Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey’s colt.’”

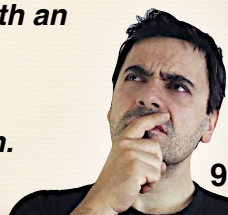
- “Hosanna” meaning “save now” was coupled with palm branches (victory & joy) (Lev.23:39-44).
- The Romans no doubt saw this as a rallying call for social revolution under a new “king of Israel”.
- This would have been very threatening to the security of the Jewish leaders who were trying to keep a “low profile” politically.

8

John 12

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Every disillusionment starts with an
illusion
to which we attach our faith.



9

John 12

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entitlements
expectations
illusions

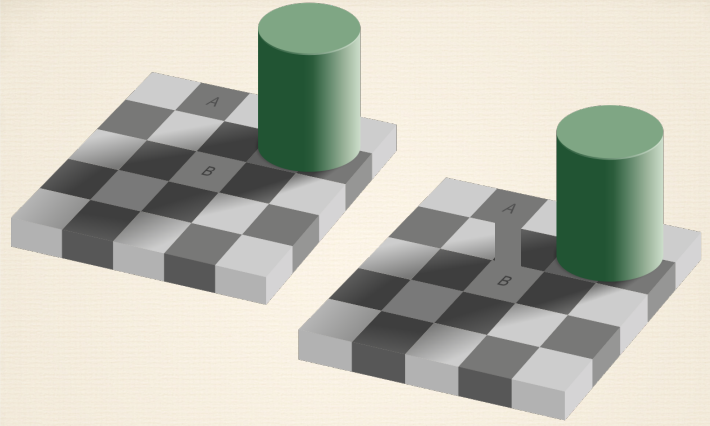


10

Some common facts that have led to grand illusions.

- Coming to Christ will result in rapid and radical sanctification for me and you.
- The church will be a community of only loving, healthy, gracious people who get along.
- If I fail to trust and obey Jesus, I will pay for it.
- God will grant my requests when asked in faith.
- To reign with Christ means that I can expect to be healthy, wealthy, honored, and happy.
- Because God loves me, He has a wonderful plan for my life.

11



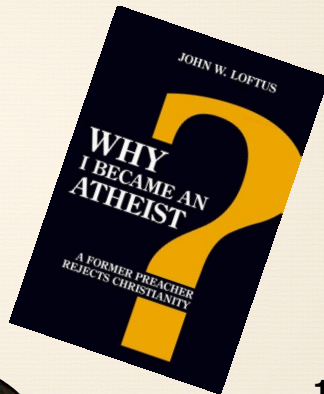
Which square "A" or "B" is the darkest gray?

12

"I had too much to live with and not enough to live for."

"My expectations of faith, prayer, the church, & God were crushed."

Rev. John W. Loftus



13

False expectations can sometimes find "Scripture for support".

Mark 10:28-31

"Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

We know that Jesus asks us to give up the empty hopes of this world (fame, fortune, physical comfort, etc.) with the expectation that they will come back to us because God loves us and wants us to prosper and be happy.

14

False expectations can always find "Scripture for support".

Mark 10:28-31

"who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions"

Three questions

Can we really handle 100 houses, children and wives. Would we want to?

After giving things up, why would we see persecutions as a blessing?

How did the Apostles' lives exemplify this?



15

An illusion can be corrected through a renewed mind.

1 Timothy 6

"5 . . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, **when accompanied by contentment.**"

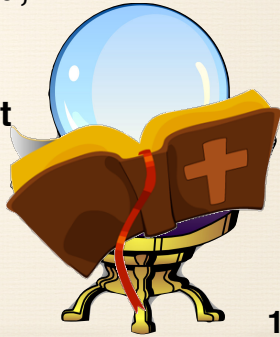


16

Some common mistakes in reading the Bible

1. The devotional crystal ball -

read till you feel good, find a verse that “means something to you”, or says what you want to hear.



17

Some common mistakes in reading the Bible

2. Ignore the context of the original readers of the text - grammatical, historical, theological, cultural, etc.

All Scripture is written for us but not about us or to us.

18

Some common mistakes in reading the Bible

3. Disregard literary genre - historical

narrative, poetry, epistles, gospels, wisdom, apocalyptic, etc.



19

Some common mistakes in reading the Bible

4. Read the Bible through narrow cultural lenses - Understanding Biblical authority in ways that do not allow for the human authorship, customs, and literary practices of the time.

Mark 1:2

“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way;’” (*Mal.3:1*)

20

“16 These things His disciples did not understand at the first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him. 17 And so the multitude who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb, and raised him from the dead, were bearing Him witness. 18 For this cause also the multitude went and met Him, because they heard that He had performed this sign”

- The disciples were at first confused by the “mixed message” of a king without political power.

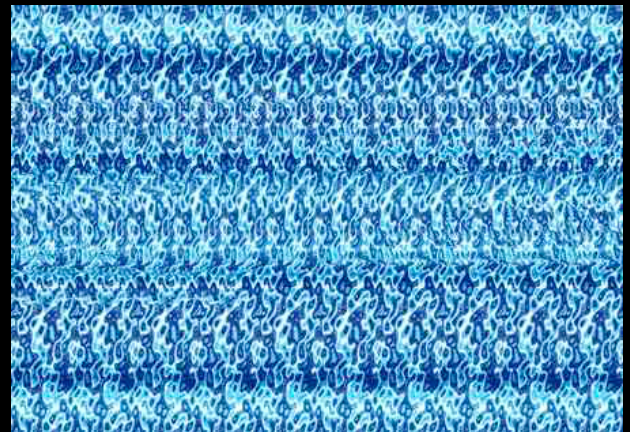
Disillusionments persist because of

impatience

to wait on God in faith.

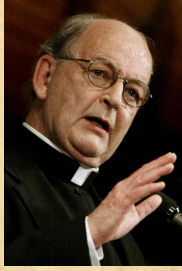


21



If you are patient and look at the picture in the right way, you will see the shark. 22

Richard John Neuhaus



“The religious left wants the kingdom on earth without its king and before its time.”

23

It seems like the religious right wants pretty much the same thing **but in the name of Jesus.**

24

For Christians everything will be O.K. in the end.

If it's not O.K. it's not the end.

25

John 12

“19 The Pharisees therefore said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.””

- **The Pharisees had invested interests in this life** “their place and nation” (11:48)

Disillusionments persist because of

investments

we have made in the lies we tell ourselves.



26

Matthew 6:24

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6

“21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

27

The greatest lies we tell are the ones we tell to ourselves.

I can have it both ways - this world's riches and kingdom riches.

Just because it can rot, rust, or be robbed does not mean that it isn't a good investment for the peace of my soul.

If God really loves me, He will obey my commandments.

28

The greatest lies we tell are the ones we tell to ourselves.

The father of lies wants us to find hope in anything and everything but Jesus

and for the wrong things.



29

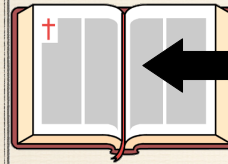
Traditional culture

Ancient culture

Early American culture

Modern Western culture

Our culture



The more heavily we are invested in our culture will affect our blindness to its power over our views.



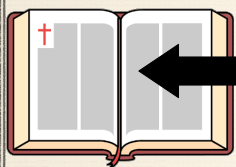
30

Traditional culture

Ancient culture

Early American culture

Our culture is hard to audit because it is assumed



We may be liberated from past ages & cultures but not from our own.



31

Traditional culture

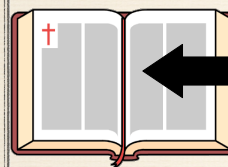
Ancient culture

Early American culture

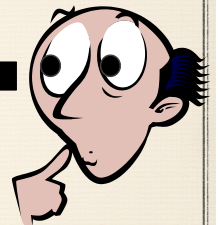
Modern Western culture

Pluralism
Democracy
Narcissism
Materialism

Autonomy
Pragmatism
Individualism
Permissiveness



ancient cosmology, political dueling, concubines, slavery, etc.



32

The Bottom Line

- 1. Disillusionment can kill faith.**
- 2. Disillusionment starts with false expectations, impatience, and carnal investments.**
- 3. Be aware of Satan's schemes and resist them.**

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