

Adult Bible Studies

Current Events Supplement December 9, 2018

Choose to Love and Serve God

Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24

by Katie Shockley

Dublin Bottling Works in Dublin, Texas, is known for two things: It is “the first facility to actually bottle Dr. Pepper,” and they have never stopped using pure cane sugar, even to this day. W. P. “Bill” Kloster joined the company as a bottle sorter at the age of 14; inherited ownership of the company in 1991; and worked there for 67 years, including the day he unexpectedly passed away. The media dubbed Kloster “Mr. Dr. Pepper” for his love and commitment to the brand.¹ He is believed to have had the largest collection of Dr. Pepper memorabilia in the world, including a few one-of-a-kind items. According to the docents at the W. P. Kloster Museum, he drank 15 to 20 Dr. Peppers a day.² One story goes that if Kloster saw you walking by with a Pepsi or a Coke in your hand, he would replace it with a Dr. Pepper.³ Mr. Kloster was famous for his focused devotion and dedication to the product and the marketing of Dr. Pepper.

In today’s lesson, the student book author writes about Joshua’s “single-mindedness and his sincerity”⁴ to the worship of the Lord. For Joshua, you worshiped the Lord as God or worshiped some other god. Worship was assumed, but dividing your time between two or more gods was unacceptable. If you worshiped the Lord, you worshiped none other.

Bill Kloster had that single-mindedness and sincerity, too. He made a choice at age 14, and his loyalty never wavered. He also believed that he could convince others to be just as loyal to a single brand of soda. May we have this same strength and conviction to Jesus Christ. May we have the desire to replace the gods in other people’s hands with what can truly quench their deepest thirst: God’s love for us in Jesus Christ.

1. What gods tempt us today? How do we inadvertently divide our time between worship of the Lord and worship of other gods?
2. What does single-mindedness and sincerity to Jesus Christ look like for you?
3. What about faith in Jesus Christ sparks in you a desire to replace the gods in other people’s hands with the God’s love for them?

Reverend Katie Shockley is a licensed local pastor and serves as pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Copeville, Texas.

¹From “Our History,” Dublin Bottling Works (<http://www.dublinbottlingworks.com/dublin-bottling-history.asp>).

²From my personal tour of Dublin Bottling Works with Docent Coates (November 23, 2018).

³From *American Pickers*, “Picked a Peck of Pepper,” Season 15, Episode 4, History TV (May 25, 2016).

⁴From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2018-2019, by Stan Purdum (Cokesbury, 2018); page 15.

The Adult Bible Studies Current Events Supplement is available by downloading from the Web (www.adultbiblestudies.com) or by e-mail (sign-up form is available at the website). Copyright © 2018 by Cokesbury. Permission given to copy for local church use. Please do not put the Adult Bible Studies Current Events Supplement on your website for downloading, but feel free to link to our webpage.