



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 11 September 2022

The quotations in italics are from the Queen's Christmas Messages and other speeches...

Faith and Service

Jesus is 'the bedrock of my faith and an inspiration and an anchor in my life' (2014),

'The teachings of Christ have served as my inner light' (2020).

Christ not only revealed to us the truth in his teachings. He lived by what he believed and gave us the strength to try to do the same.' (1990)

'This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son "to serve, not to be served". He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.' (2012)

Please read Matthew 20.25-28

1. How does the Queen explain how her service and his faith are linked together?
2. How might this inspire us to explain to others how our service and our faith are linked?

'For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.' (2008)

Please read Hebrews 4.12-14

3. How would this perspective shape the Queen's attitude to her power & responsibility?

Faith and Forgiveness

'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.' (2011)

4. How did her faith influence her approach to greeting Martin McGuinness in 2012?
5. How does this inspire you with difficult relationships in your life?

Faith and Love

Jesus' instruction to 'love one another as I have loved you' is not a guru's suggestion, but a divine command. It sounds so simple, yet it proves so hard to obey' (1995).

'Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.' (2014)

Please read John 13.33-34

6. Does Jesus teaching on love compel us to respond to poverty, creation care, equality for women – as the Queen claims?

Faith for All

'It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord.' (2011)

7. The Queen wasn't called to be an Evangelist like Billy Graham, but she was compelled by Jesus' love to direct others to Jesus within the limitations of her calling. What can you learn from her example?