



# THE GOSPEL

WILL WILLIMON

FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

**STUDY GUIDE**

## 1 You Have a Problem

- If you were giving a testimonial about your own experience of the Christian faith, would it fit the “I was miserable, then I found Jesus” format?
- How well does Will’s “My Testimony” compare with your own testimony?
- Can you say, as Will said, that within the words of the Christian faith he heard “about as tough a challenge, as high a calling, as strong a voice as I ever hope to hear”?

## 2 Bringing Them to Their Knees

- Will opens this chapter with talking about the traditional sermon pattern as he experienced it. How do the sermons you have recently heard compare with this pattern?
- When, in your own life, have you experienced Christ, not as a solution to your problems, but rather as calling you to work with him?
- Do you think that moralistic preaching is as big a problem in American churches as Will indicates?



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## 3 Standing on Our Own Two Feet

- In your own words, describe what it means to “repent.”
- What you think about Will’s contention that, when presenting the gospel to others, we should begin with the love of God and not with enumeration of human faults?
- What is the meaning that you find in the parable with which Will concludes this chapter?

## 4 Christianity—Not for Babies

- In what ways have you found the church to be a help in the maturing of your faith?
- Describe what you believe Jesus was indicating when he urged us to “turn and become as a little child.”
- What are some specific things your congregation could do to help people mature in their faith?



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## 5 For the Person Who Has Everything

- Do you think your church, and its preaching, has sometimes been guilty of appealing to people's weaknesses rather than to their strengths? In what ways?
- Will argues that gratitude is a "foundation of our response to God." For what are you grateful?
- In what ways does Dietrich Bonhoeffer speak to Christians today?

## 6 From Whom All Blessings Flow

- What are some aspects of contemporary life that make gratitude sparse?
- Will cites Kierkegaard's analogy of the "Worship Theater." What do you find helpful about this way of thinking about Christian worship?
- What are some of the contributing factors to a lack of joy in our Sunday worship?



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## 7 To Whom Much Is Given

- Don't be embarrassed or modest now. Name some of the strengths that you think God has given you that God may be pressing you to use in service to others.
- How would you characterize Will's description of the "freedom and challenge of responsible gratitude"?
- In your own life, in what ways have you been your brother's or sister's keeper and God's steward? (page 100)

## 8 Strength in Numbers

- What is your main reason for being active in the church, or for being inactive?
- What have you found to be the most challenging and difficult thing about the church?
- Think of a time when you have personally been strengthened in your Christian discipleship because of the aid offered by a fellow Christian in the church.

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