

February 5, 2023

# The View

*"Sirs, we wish to see Jesus." – John 12:21*

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## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence.

We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly "headquarters."

The five elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate when is passed.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

*Auditorium: "Love Your Bible"*

*Young Adult Class: "Love, Service & Culture"*

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

David Posey

***Jesus, Full of Grace & Truth***

*Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>*

#### **Bible Class: 5:00 PM @ the Building**

*"Praying the Psalms" (Auditorium)*

*High School Class @ 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey's home: **No Class Tonight***

Middle school class: monthly (contact David Sanderson ([david.r.sanderson@intel.com](mailto:david.r.sanderson@intel.com)))

or Seth Reagan ([sethreagan@gmail.com](mailto:sethreagan@gmail.com))

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

*Auditorium: Love Your Bible*

*Room 12: Young Adults Class: "Love, Service & Culture"*

# JOYFULLY STUDYING THE BIBLE

BY ROCHELLE BROWN

**H**ave you ever found yourself sighing when the time came to do your daily Bible reading? Maybe you were exhausted and didn't feel like reading. Maybe you were right smack in the middle of reading the most boring book in the Bible. Or maybe doing your daily Bible reading was feeling like a chore; it was something that you needed to do just so you could check it off your to-do list. We've all been there... way back in the day, even the Israelites had similar feelings. For them, the Word of the Lord had become "precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little..." (Isaiah 28:13). The Israelites had sunk down into a pit of negativity about God's word and didn't pull themselves out, ignoring God's love for them and rejecting a relationship with their Lord. Their indifference toward God's precepts was an indifference toward God himself. As a result, they had to "fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken" (Isaiah 28:13). By turning away from God's word, the Israelites were turning away from God; thus, they were taken away from the promised land and forced into captivity.

Let's learn a lesson from God's people of the Old Testament. Let's not allow ourselves to develop a negative attitude about God's Word. Let's not allow our citizenship in the promised land to be revoked because listening to God speak has become a drudgery instead of a delight. Instead, let's cultivate a love for God's word! Remember, by loving God's word, we are really just loving God! His Word is how He communicates with us! Let's work on having a positive attitude toward God's Word, like the unknown psalmist who wrote the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible... involving 176 verses dedicated to conveying a love and appreciation for the Word of God. He wrote, "Your rules are good. Behold, I long for your precepts!" (Psalm 119:39-40). The psalmist's words show a stark contrast to Isaiah's description of the Israelites contempt for studying "precept upon precept."

"Many of us have been reading and studying the Word of God for a very long time, some since childhood. We need to be aware that this familiarity can result in a sort of passive contempt where we gloss over our readings of the Word...or don't read it at all."

Sometimes, as they say, familiarity breeds contempt. Many of us have been reading and studying the Word of God for a very long time, some since childhood. We need to be aware that this familiarity can result in a sort of passive contempt where we gloss over our readings of the Word...or don't read it at all. Maybe we have a "been there, done that" kind of attitude toward God's Word. Maybe it is hard to focus on something that we've

read a dozen times. Maybe we let the cares of life take priority over listening to God speak to us through His Word. We need to be aware that there is a serious danger in these kinds of attitudes. Like the Israelites, if we develop an indifference toward God's Word, we are developing an indifference

toward God himself. We need to make a cognizant effort to see the beauty, appeal, and importance of the Word.

Let's let our familiarity of the Bible bring us joy and nourishment instead of contempt! In Psalm 19:7-11, the Word is said to be sweeter than honey. This is a fitting metaphor because honey is an incredible super-food. Not only is honey a delicious natural sweetener, but it has impressive medical properties. Honey is used to minimize allergic reactions to pollens, sooth coughs, and treat burns. It is said to be both antibacterial and an anti-inflammatory. Honey contains the vitamins potassium and zinc. Honey also kills germs such as E. coli and staphylococcus. If God's Word is the spiritual version of this impressive physical food, then let's crack the cover and dig in!

The prophet Jeremiah certainly felt drawn to the spiritually nutritious and joy-inducing Word of God. He said, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16). Like Jeremiah, find God's Word. Eat it up. Let the Word bring joy to your heart and nourishment to your soul.

# “Knock Offs” & Integrity

“Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.” Proverbs 10:9

“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” Matthew 5:37

## Duped

“Dupes” are less costly alternatives to brand name options that are taking over TikTok and Instagram.

**Why it’s becoming so widespread:** Originally, “dupes” were used in the consumer context to refer to cosmetics. A beauty consumer might be on a quest for a drugstore dupe of a MAC foundation or a Dior lipstick. But the term has migrated to social media and become a staple of the influencer vocabulary... some call it the “dupe culture”—finding ways to replicate a luxury product or lifestyle at a more affordable price point. Google search results for “dupe” approached a new peak in January 2023, and the hashtag reached 1.6 billion views on TikTok. It’s possible this trend represents an underlying economic anxiety as inflation and a possible recession loom large in the mind of American consumers. [Cultural Translator]

This article seems to indicate that these “dupes” are honest attempts by manufacturers to replicate an existing luxury item without actually pawning them off as the real thing. There is nothing wrong with that. Mazda is doing the same thing — trying to be “upscale” without charging an arm and a leg (so says *Car & Driver* magazine).

That’s fine but there is a whole cottage industry engaged in the illegal practice of selling luxury items as the real thing but at a huge discount. If you’ve heard of “knock-offs,” you know what I’m talking about. For example, a merchant will sell a Louis Vuitton handbag for a mere \$50 but the real thing, an authentic Louis Vuitton, sells for over \$1500 and (*way, way*) up. Since most people are unaware of the astronomical price of a Vuitton purse, I’m sure many buy the knock-offs thinking they have a manufacturing defect of some kind, so they are being sold at a much lower price. I’m not talking about those folks. By now, though, most people should be aware of the illegal practice of selling fake luxury goods at bargain basement prices.

A few years ago, Christie and I were walking down Santee Alley, a sidewalk-in-an-alley marketplace in Los Angeles where you can buy clothing, luggage, jewelry and sundry other items at much lower than usual prices. As we were strolling down the alleyway, all of a sudden, several of the merchants began hurriedly stuffing something into plastic bags and running down the alley. About the same time, we saw several men in dark blue polo shirts descending on these storefronts looking for something. We quickly determined that they were federal agents looking for those who were selling the knock-offs luxury items — in this cases, upscale handbags.

On another occasion, we walked into a store that was selling bags that were pretty innocuous looking — nice design but no emblem/logos on them. Then we learned that sellers had a few hidden samples that they would

bring out if they determine you are interested, but those bags had the emblem of a famous manufacturer (e.g., *Coach*) attached to the purse. If you agreed to buy the bag, they would attach the metal emblem to the purse you purchased making it look identical to an genuine Coach bag.

US Customs reports that replica purse imports violate intellectual property rights and, in 2020, 17% of all violations were handbags and wallets. In other words, it’s illegal.

More importantly, it’s dishonest. Proverbs 11:1 says, “Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.” This cottage industry of selling knock-offs (of purses, clothing and jewelry) is wide-spread. It’s the modern day equivalent of putting your thumb on the scale. It’s so common that if you Google “dupes,” several articles will appear like this one: “Is my Coach bag real?” followed by an article on how to tell if it’s the genuine article. Those who sell these are not people for whom their “yes is yes” and their “no is no.” They are professional

liars.

But what about those who buy them? What if you buy a handbag *knowing* it is a knock-off? Doesn’t that say that you are willing to

shave a little off the truth to reach a desired end? What happens if someone compliments you on your taste in handbags? Do you confess or leave them thinking you are “well-heeled”?

As mentioned earlier, some have bought these purses innocently. But others who knowingly buy them argue that they did nothing wrong. They’ll say something like, “Louis Vuitton can afford it” or “they are so extremely overpriced anyway so what’s the big deal?” I would hope that we recognize that those are vacuous arguments and irrelevant. It is not about whether the Louie Vuitton company is making a ton of money. It’s about our personal veracity.

You realize that this article isn’t really about buying handbags, right? It’s about integrity and honesty. If we would lie about a purse or a wallet, what else would we lie about? When Jesus said, “let your yes be yes and your no be no” he was teaching his disciples that telling the truth is a one way street, with no off-ramps. Fake “dupes” are for those who are willing to engage in a little duplicity. This is a cautionary tale that reminds us that we either have integrity — “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness” — or we don’t.

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