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Key of Liberty

Study Guide #3

10/9/24

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***John Adams, Reluctant Patriot* by Leonard Falkner**

Study Guide

Vocabulary (page #'s) - Find the definitions of the following words:

1. ferule (12): a flat rule used to punish children
2. distinction (14): a difference in something
3. concise (15): to give a lot of information, in the least time, or words possible
4. leaden (15): heavy, dark
5. rhetoric (17): literature, or the use of descriptive words
6. dissertation (22): a long essay
7. indolent (24): lazy, idle, not working
8. enthralled (24): fascinated, amazed
9. dapper (26): very nice and neat, usually used to describe clothing
10. billeted (26): lodging soldiers in one's house
11. barrister (29): a lawyer
12. induction (29): the process of putting someone into a position, or organization
13. immaculate (30): perfectly
14. alluring (32): powerfully attractive
15. coquette (32): flirty
16. livid (35): furiously angry
17. supercilious (35): behaving as if someone is better than someone else

18. discomfiture (35): embarrassment, unease, or awkwardness
19. brevity (60): exact use of words in a writing, or speech
20. consequential (62): important, result or effect of an action, or choice
21. docilely (72): easy to control, or in a submissive manner
22. frigates (72): a warship, used for convoy escort work
23. inundated (72): overwhelm with people, or objects
24. enmity (75): feeling hostile, to someone or something
25. sagacity (106): ability to make good decisions, or good judgments

Questions: (Please write or type your answers on separate pieces of paper)

- 1. Puritans believed they were born into, “inherited sin as descendants of Adam” (pg. 8). Read the Second Article of Faith and Moroni 8. How does this religious view differ from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints?**

The Puritans religious view was very different from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints view. The second article of faith says, “We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.” In the Church we believe that instead of being born into sin because of Adam, we will be punished for the sins we do, no anybody else.

- 2. Sunday seemed the longest day of the week to John Adams (pg. 9). How did the Puritans keep the Sabbath Day holy? How do you keep the Sabbath day Holy?**

The Puritans kept the Sabbath holy by not doing any unnecessary work, no playing, and by going to church for most of the day. I keep the Sabbath holy by going to church for 2 hours, not hanging out with friends, and try not to watch football, or anything that is not Christ related.

- 3. In the time of John Adams, it was typically only the oldest son who received advanced schooling, or any schooling at all (pg. 10). We live in a time when education is available to everyone. How can you show greater appreciation for your educational opportunities? How can you take greater responsibility for your own education?**

I can show better appreciation for my educational opportunities by being attentive in classes, participating in classes, and doing all that is required for the class. I can take greater responsibility for my education by doing my homework, without being asked, and not procrastinating. I can also make sure I learn in class, and pay attention.

- 4. On page 13, John’s father is upset that John doesn’t want to go to school anymore. But rather than yelling at John he, “weighed his thoughts carefully before he spoke again.” How did John’s father exhibit self-control and why is it important to think before we speak? Can you think of an example when you paused before simply reacting to something that upset you?**

John's father exhibited excellent self-control, instead of getting mad and yelling, he took a moment to compose his thoughts, and then he spoke, in a calm manner. It is important to think before we speak, because, if we are mad and talk in anger, we could say something we don't really mean, and we could really hurt someone. I try to pause before I speak. One example was when my sisters were playing in my room, and they made a huge mess, I was fuming. Instead of yelling at my sister, I stepped back, and took deep breaths, and tried to calm down. I then went to talk to my sisters, but I was calm and respectful, and I was able to solve the problem peacefully.

5. What do you think of John's daily schedule while he was at Harvard? (pg. 19)

I did not agree with John Adam's schedule, at Harvard, I think that it is too strict, boring, and stuffy. His schedule should have been more loose, and fun. Now at colleges you get to choose when you take classes, and you can go to sporting events, and have fun with friends. All of these things make college more fun and easier to learn.

6. While John was at Harvard, some boys broke the rules and snuck out to steal chickens from the chicken coop. John chose not to join the boys. When asked by a teacher about the incident, John would not lie, but he also chose not to turn the other boys in (pg. 21). Do you think John did the right thing? Why or why not?

Yes, I do think that John did the right thing. He hadn't gone with the boys to steal chickens, but he did not turn the boys in. That shows a lot of bravery, heart, and stubbornness, and it says in the story that John's teacher was, "Secretly pleased."

7. Do you agree with John Adams that, "God wants his children to understand His teachings?" (pg. 22). Why or why not?

Yes, I do believe that God wants his children to understand His teachings because, our mortal life here on earth is one of learning, and understanding what God had in store for us.

8. What do we learn about John Adams' resolve to learn the law? (pg. 25). What does this imply for you and your own education?

John Adams' resolve to learn the law was amazing, he had to work long hard hours, studying the law at night, and during the day, he had to go to the "dreary" latin school. What this implies for my own education, is to not give up, and keep going, even if it is hard and "dreary" work.

9. On page 43, John was frustrated about the British search warrants, but, "what could he, humble John Adams, do about it?" Have you ever felt that something was bigger than yourself? Have you ever wanted to change something or help with something but it didn't seem like there was anything you could do? Explain.

Yes there have been many times when I have felt that something was bigger than me. When I felt that I wanted to change it but it seemed as if I couldn't do anything. For example, my family and I have been remodeling our house, and at times, I cannot help with the remodel, because I don't know how to paint wallpaper, ect. I have tried to find other things to do, but I usually cannot, because it is beyond my skills.

10. At first, John found the idea of independence from Great Britain startling because he had "never thought of himself as anything but an Englishman" (pg. 45). Obviously, John ended up changing his mind to become one of the most prominent voices for independence (pg. 103). When have you

experienced a significant change of opinion like John? Where you started out thinking one way, and ended up completely changing your views?

Many times, I have changed my point of view like John Adams. For example, I used to feel as if school work was the worst, and that it was a waste of my time. I hated doing anything for school, but as I got older, I started enjoying doing some of my work, and I realized that the school work was for my own good.

11. On page 45, John is nominated to be a new surveyor of highways. He feels completely inadequate and inexperienced for the task. When have you felt inexperienced and unqualified for a task or assignment?

I have felt inexperienced and unqualified for many tasks. One of these was digging a very long ditch through my whole yard so that my dad could install a new faucet. I had no idea how to dig the ditch at first, and it was very hard, but gradually, I learned how to make the digging easy, and I was able to make a ditch for my dad.

12. On page 46, when the new bridge was first built, it washed away at the first flood. When the men rebuilt the bridge, John made sure it was done correctly. Why is it best to do a job well and correctly the first time? Have you ever needed to re-do a job not done correctly?

It is very important to do a good job the first time around because, if you don't do it right then you have to do it again, and doing a job good the first time shows good workmanship. I have had many times when I was lazy doing a job and I had to do the job again, one time, I had to clean my sister's room with her. Her room is always a mess, and I got tired of cleaning, so I just shoved all the toys into her closet. Later my mom found the shoved toys, and I had to re-do the job.

13. What attributes did Abigail possess that made her interesting and attractive to John? (pg. 52) What kind of attributes do you find interesting and attractive in another person?

John thought Abigail was interesting, and attractive because she loved reading and learning, something John liked, and she was serious. Attributes I find interesting and attractive in another person are: someone who does not shrink when hard times come up, someone who is athletic, and someone who is willing to stand up for what they think.

14. What does it mean to "hang in effigy?" (pg. 58)

To hang someone in effigy is not hanging a person. Rather, it is hanging a doll that looks like the person people are trying to ridicule.

15. John didn't believe in using violence to protest the Stamp Act (pg. 58). He said, "The opposition to the Stamp Act should be kept within legal bounds." How are people following or not following this counsel today?

Nowadays people are not following John's counsel very much. A few years back when a mob protested Washington DC, many people protesting had knives and pepper and bear spray. The mob tried to spray and slash into the capital but police and the army held them back, but many officers were seriously hurt, and many got lots of minor injuries.

16. How did John Adams view women? (pg. 61)

Contrary to the belief that women knew less than men at the time, John Adams believed the opposite, and he believed his wife Abigail to be one of the smartest people he knew.

- 17. When John Adams defended the soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre, it was extremely unpopular for him to do so, but he knew it was the right thing to do (pgs. 79-85). How can we have courage to do what is right when it is not popular?**

We can have courage to do what is “not popular” in world views, by listening to our morals, and values, which is exactly what John Adams did.

- 18. When John interviews the Captain from Woburn involved in the battle at Lexington and Concord, the captain simply answers, “We’ve always governed ourselves, and we mean to keep on doing it. They don’t mean that we should” (pgs. 101-102). Self-government was so important to these colonists that they were willing to fight and die for it. Do you think we value self-government as much today? Why or why not?**

Some people do value self-government as much as they did back then, but a lot more don’t value self-government as much now. This is because we are now used to beginning as an independent country. Back in John Adams time, the US being a different country was mind blowing, and so many people wanted it very badly. But now people already live in an established US, so they do not value self-government as much.

- 19. What were the two main reasons that Adams wanted George Washington appointed as commander-in-chief of the continental army?**

The two main reasons were, 1: George Washington had the most military experience of almost anybody in the country, and 2 He had served under the British General Braddock in the march against Fort Duquesne, and had commanded troops against the French.

- 20. Which day did John Adams consider to be the most important, July 2 or July 4? Why? (pg. 110)**

John Adams considered July 2 to be most important because Congress adopted the formal resolution declaring the colonies independent.

- 21. John and Abigail were apart for 8 years (pg. 122). How would you feel to not see one of your parents for eight years?**

If I was apart from one of my parents for 8 years, I would be devastated. I would miss their love, kindness, and guidance. I would be truly desolate.

- 22. What were the two main political factions while Washington was President? (pg. 127) What did each group believe?**

The two main political factions were Federalists and Anti-Federalists. The Federalists strongly supported the Constitution, and its concentration of authority in the government. The Anti-Federalist felt as if the Constitution took away too many rights.

- 23. How old was Adams when he lost re-election to Thomas Jefferson? (pg. 137)**

John Adams was 65 when he lost the re-election.

- 24. Fill in the blank: “The sober judgment of posterity will be that in your generation you were not the man of any party but of the whole people.”**

25. How old was Adams when he died? (pg. 140)

John Adams was 90 years old when he died.