

## THE MOST URGENT NEED: THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED

**AUGUST 3, 2025**

### **LESSON ONE:**

### **HOT TOPIC: SPIRITUAL INDECISIVENESS**

(Luke 9:57-62, Matt.10:38; 4:19, John 13:34-35, Mark 9:23, Acts 1:8)

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Same Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Poverty, and Abortion are all mammoth issues in our lives, families, and culture. Yet, at the close of these **Hot Topics**, it is essential that we decide to follow Jesus' teachings. **Luke 9** outlines the "Honesty of Jesus" – the demands of discipleship, emphasizing that following Jesus requires unwavering commitment, and prioritizing the Kingdom of God over personal concerns, or *worldly* responsibilities.

It involves denying oneself, embracing and accepting the suffering and sacrifice, and just making a conscious decision - that comes with the commitment to follow Jesus. The Central Theme of Christian Discipleship is rooted in Jesus' Call for His followers to "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." (**Matt. 16:24**) – We must prioritize God and His Will, over personal desires and worldly pursuits. Most importantly to actively follow Christ's teachings and His examples in all aspects of our life.

### **THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED: THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

The Gospel refers to the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ, and the "unreached" are people or groups, who have little or no access to God's Message. Reaching the unreached is a Biblical mandate, emphasized by Jesus' **Great Commission**. Jesus instructs His followers to "Make Disciples" of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (**Matt. 28:18-20**)

In this Lesson, **Luke 9:57-62** highlights the cost and the need for total dedication, even to the point of sacrificing earthly comforts or family obligations. Also, the necessity of making Him the ultimate priority, even above family and *worldly* concerns.

In essence, this passage teaches that following Jesus demands:

- **A willingness to sacrifice** – Following Jesus may involve leaving behind comfort, security, familiar relationships.
- **Wholehearted devotion** – Discipleship requires a complete and undivided commitment, putting Jesus' Will above all else.
- **A reordering of priorities** – The Kingdom of God should be the utmost priority; taking precedence over *worldly* concerns and obligations.
- **A decisive and unwavering commitment** – There should be no hesitation or looking back to the past, but a forward focus on following Jesus.

## THE MOST URGENT NEED: THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED

### HOT TOPIC: SPIRITUAL INDECISIVENESS

**AUGUST 10, 2025**

#### **LESSON TWO: ARE YOU GOING TO CHOOSE COMFORT OR THE CROSS**

(Luke 9:23, Matthew 8:20, John 15:20)

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Having outlined His own future, the Lord invited the Disciples to follow Him. This would mean denying themselves and taking up their **cross**. To **deny** self means willingly to renounce any so-called right to plan or choose and to recognize His Lordship in every area of life. To **take up** the **cross** means to deliberately choose the kind of life He lived.

Christ makes it clear that Christianity is not a path to more comforts, higher status, or greater ease in this world. The road Jesus walks is not paved with prospect of self-advancement. Instead, it starts with a demand for self-denial.

#### **ARE YOU GOING TO CHOOSE COMFORT OR THE CROSS**

**Taking up your cross**—the cross is a symbol of suffering and death in Jesus' time; being willing to endure suffering and make sacrifices for Christ. **Follow me** emphasizes the ongoing nature of discipleship. It involves daily obedience and trust in God's guidance. We must hold fast to the Gospel, believing the Bible, and putting it into practice at any risk.

As Jesus prepared to cross the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum to the east side, a self-confident **scribe** stepped forward pledging to follow Him "all the way." The Lord's Answer challenged him to count the cost — (Ref. Matt. 8:20) — "**Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.**"

In Jesus' public ministry, He had no home of His own; however, there were homes where He was a welcome guest, and he ordinarily had a place to sleep. The true force of His words seems to be spiritual: this world could not provide Him with true, lasting rest. He had a work to do and could not rest till it was accomplished. The same is true of His followers; this world is not their resting place; or at least, it shouldn't be!

Yet, in **John 15:20** — Jesus promised this, "A servant is not greater than his master, He said. "If they persecuted me, they would persecute you." When you ask how the world responded to Jesus, the answer you come to is a cruel, bloody cross. It would be utter foolishness, then, for followers of this same Christ in this same world to believe that their fate will be any different.

Regarding biblical truths, church members, and some Pastors are daily surrounded by dazzling temptations, to cave in to the changing tides of cultural opinions. However, may these biblical truths take their rightful place over and above our personal references.

#### **OTHER REFERENCES:**

**Luke 14:25-33; John 1:29**

## THE MOST URGENT NEED: THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED

### HOT TOPIC: SPIRITUAL INDECISIVENESS

AUGUST 17, 2025

#### LESSON THREE: ARE WE GOING TO SETTLE FOR MAINTENANCE OR SACRIFICE

(Luke 9:57-62; Luke 9:60; Eph. 6:2; Matt.28:18-20; Gen. 1:28; Rom. 12:1)

**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus prioritizes spreading the Message of the Kingdom of God. This Message is presented as more vital than the cultural obligation of burying a parent. While scripture, and Jesus, are clear, that we honor parents; we must understand that Jesus is to come first. It highlights the urgency and importance of Jesus' mission compared to worldly concerns.

Jesus' answer makes clear that His request would have involved putting tradition or the disciples' own desires ahead of serving Jesus. The thing to which the man who wanted to bury his father was more importance than any earthly consideration, and for that time. Yet, Christ chose to require of the man a very extraordinary sacrifice to show his sincere attachment to Him.

God's Commission involves spreading the Gospel, baptizing, and teaching others to follow Christ, and not just stay focused on internal maintenance. In essence, the Biblical Message leans heavily towards an active, outward-focused mission that often requires personal sacrifice, rather than a passive or inwardly focus- "maintenance"- of the existing church or personal spiritual life.

In the Christian faith, the question of whether to "settle for the maintenance" or "sacrifice for the mission of Christ," highlights a fundamental tension between personal conduct and spiritual calling. **Maintenance** refers to focusing on activities that keep a church or individual Christian life going, such as attending services, engaging in fellowship, and personal spiritual growth. **Mission** emphasizes actively participating in spreading the Gospel, making disciples, and serving others beyond the church walls.

Jesus' life and death serves as the ultimate example of sacrifice for the sake of God's mission of redemption and revealing the Father. He called His followers to take up their crosses and follow Him. This is the central Message in the Gospels, urging individuals to commit to following Jesus, even to the point of sacrifice and potentially death. It signifies a complete surrender of self and a willingness to endure hardship for the sake of faith.

The urgent need is for the Gospel; we who know the Gospel has been the greatest Gift in all the world. Therefore, we cannot – we must not – stay silent with this Gospel. Gospel possession requires Gospel proclamation. Jesus specifically commanded His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nation." **This is the core mission given to believers.** God often calls individuals to step outside of their comfort zone to fulfill His purpose – aligning one's life with His Will and using one's gift and talents to serve others and glorify Him.

#### OTHER REFERENCES:

**Matt. 28:19; 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23**

## **THE MOST URGENT NEED: THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED**

### **HOT TOPIC: SPIRITUAL INDECISIVENESS**

**AUGUST 24, 2025**

#### **LESSON FOUR: WILL OUR LIVES BE MARKED BY INDECISIVE MINDS OR UNDIVIDED HEARTS?**

(Luke 9:23-24; Mt 10:35-37; Luke 11:1-13; I Cor 16:1-4; Rev 3:15-16)

**INTRODUCTION:** The lure of family love can lead to faithless living. Your enemies can be those in your own household. Following Jesus requires supreme affection from our hearts, not just sacrificial abandonment of our lives. Following Jesus demands more than partial obedience—it requires full surrender. The topics that have been previously discussed such as racism, abortion, same sex marriage, and sex slavery are revisited to demonstrate that being a Christian is not selective because Jesus' Words are clear. However, when it comes to the Call of God we tend to hesitate before doing anything. We want to research our options and hear other opinions. This is not bad in and of itself, but it allows for indecisiveness to slowly creep in and become inaction, causing delayed obedience to become disobedience.

While we take time contemplating the Gospel, over two billion people in the world have never heard of it. They are waiting to hear the Good News about God's love for them. God loves us too much to live with indifference or inaction. The most significant thing we can do to fight social injustice is to PRAY. The battle belongs to God. Our prayers will then lead to participation with God in the world around us. One of the primary ways this plays out is in our giving. As we pray and give, God will lead us to go and proclaim His Word to the world around us. We may not give equal attention to every one of the issues we have discussed during this Bible study, but we should be consistent in the fact that we pray, give, and go as God leads us, and proclaim the Gospel with conviction, compassion, and courage.

- **I Sam 17:47 – Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.**
- **Mat 6:9-10 – In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
- **Mat 9:37-38 – Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**
- **Mat 6:24 – No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.**

God is compelling you by His Word to counter our culture by proclaiming His Kingdom. Do not allow fear in our culture, to silence you about the Gospel or enable indecisions to rule your life. Never underestimate what God can and will do through one person, one family, or one church for the sake of His glory in our culture. God has put you in this culture currently for a reason.

## THE MOST URGENT NEED: THE GOSPEL AND THE UNREACHED

### LESSON FIVE:

### HOW TO REACH THE MASSES

AUGUST 31, 2025

(Heb. 10:19-25, John 12:32-36, Matt. 28:19-20)

### INTRODUCTION:

As we close out these six months of Hot Topics on: Poverty, Abortion, Sex Slavery, Same-Sex Marriage, and Racism – Biblically changing someone from living against God's Will involves a multifaceted approach focused on Spiritual transformation through faith, repentance, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' role in reaching the masses was involving teaching, healing, demonstrating compassion, and ultimately laying the groundwork for a global movement. In **John 12:32**, Jesus explains when He is *lifted up* signifies His crucifixion, He will draw all people to Himself. The Bible emphasizes the importance of both proclaiming the Word and demonstrating God's love through actions, like Jesus did, and living out the teachings in our daily lives. **Key Biblical Principles of Reaching the Masses:**

- I. **Proclamation and Preaching (Matt. 28: 19-29, Luke 4:18-19)**
  - a. Jesus' Example – Jesus traveled extensively, preaching the Gospel to diverse crowds. He instructed His Disciples to “go and make disciples of all nations.”
  - b. Paul's Epistles – The Apostle Paul's Letter to various churches emphasized the importance of preaching of the Word of God.
  - c. Spreading the Word – Christians are called to share the Good News through communication and by living out their Faith.
- II. **There must be a display of the compassion of Christ (Matt. 9:36)**
  - a. Jesus looks at the crowds and is moved with compassion because they are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Jesus saw their spiritual need and vulnerability, recognizing their distress and lack of guidance. This highlights their lost and unprotected state, lacking proper leadership, and spiritual direction. It emphasizes Jesus' compassion and His role as the Good Shepherd who provides guidance and care for His followers.
- III. **There must be cultivation In Christ – (I Peter 2:2)**
  - a. This encourages believers to long for “pure spiritual milk,” which refers to the foundational teachings of Christian faith, so that they may grow in their Salvation. It uses the *metaphor* of a newborn baby's desire for milk to illustrate the need for Christians to have a deep yearning for God's Word and to nourished It.
- IV. **Prayer and Intercession**
  - a. Prayer is essential for discerning God's Will and receiving guidance on how to effectively Reach the Masses. Prayer for others, including those who have not yet heard the Gospel, is an important aspect of Christian ministry.
- V. **Living A Godly Life (Holiness and Integrity)**
  - a. Living in accordance with God's Will striving for holiness and righteousness, is crucial for attracting others to Faith. A life that reflects God's character can be a powerful testimony to the transformative power of the Gospel.