

Teaching E-mail

54. Isn't It Time That Jesus BE Your Lord? (November 8, 2011)

Dear Friends,

Is it your heart's desire to authentically *love* Jesus and *serve* Him as LORD of your life? Then you as well as your family and faith family need to make this your *individual and mutual priority*: to free yourselves from the **emotionally painful hindrances** (toxic memories) and **theological stumbling blocks** that have kept you from wholeheartedly and gratefully obeying Him as His much-loved slave and friend (2 Corinthians 6:17,18; 7:1).

"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest'"
(Mark 6:31).

Most likely you'll need to undergo a **spiritual metamorphosis** (a complete transformation of your goals and values into those of Jesus). But for this radical transformation to take place, you have to intentionally *set aside time apart* from your old activities, much like a caterpillar must do in order to be changed. During that time you'll be *available heart and soul* to purposefully seek the Spirit of Christ to transform you into the character of Christ that you'll need for the next season of your life (2 Corinthians 3:17,18).

In the diagram on the right we illustrate this transformation process. Where are you? Where is your family? How about those closest in fellowship with you as family in Jesus?

To make way for your "cocoon time," you'll need to pull away from activities that keep you so busy you don't have

1. "Christian" in Name Only



Crawling through life with no spiritual power. Spiritual life comprised of religious services and activities that make you feel good. Focused more on God blessing you rather than you doing His will.

2. A Time of Metamorphosis



Convicted that the way of life and spiritual power described in the Bible are for you. Temporarily separate yourself to remove ALL hindrances to Jesus' Lordship.

3. Prepared For Flight and Fight



Committed to the Lordship of Jesus. Love Him with ALL you are and have. Live guided by His Word and empowered by His Spirit. Burdened by what burdens the heart of your Father in heaven — the salvation of others.

time for either personal or family rest together. Like the caterpillar awaiting a new life, use this period of time to come before the Spirit of Christ with *open heart and open Word*, asking Him to identify whatever is hindering you from intimacy with Him as your Lord. Maybe those in your family and spiritual family who are like-hearted will join you in this pursuit.

You may hear outraged voices of those who accuse you of "forsaking the assembly" (Hebrews 10:25) by not keeping up with your "church responsibilities." But keep in mind these biblical truths: "Assembling together" is intended by God for the **communally righteous in Christ**, for those who have *turned away from* worldly compromise with sin in

order to serve Lord Jesus and His Kingdom purposes. Each person who does gather is ***prepared in heart to participate*** (1 Corinthians 14:26) as *extended spiritual family* ready with eagle's wings to "fly" in His ways, girded with spiritual armor to face the opposing forces of evil.

We've been focusing on the LORDSHIP of Jesus in our ***Way of the Lord*** series, and have heard from some who now better understand the nature of a ministry like ours which is both "apostolic" and "prophetic" in nature. The truths our Father has given us to share are being *sent forth worldwide* through our website and by word of testimony from those who are putting them into practice. If *you've* purposed to live with Jesus as Lord of your life, you've come to experience the same demonic forces we're up against as we fulfill our Father's will, and the same critical need for His mighty intervention and response to prayer (Ephesians 6:10-12).

"Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your strength and with ALL your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'"
(Luke 10:27).

[ALL: the greatest possible amount]

We realize that if most of your "Christian life" has revolved around scheduled religious activities or what pleases YOU to participate in, then you're going to have a hard time understanding what motivates those spiritually gifted as apostles, prophets, and evangelists (Ephesians 4:11). The heart motive of these anointings is a *sacrificial love* that only the Spirit of Lord Jesus can give (2 Corinthians 5:14,15). It's the *Spirit* Who strengthens and emboldens:

- the **apostle** to pour himself out even to exhaustion or death so that he may fulfill the particular mission his Lord has assigned him. This consuming, singular focus may appear uncaring to those around him, but emanates from a compelling purpose to *complete the call* out of love and obedient trust (Luke 10:4).
- the **prophet** to risk rejection and ostracism to *speak forth God's warning* so that those who have responsive "ears to hear" will repent—ridding themselves of all unconfessed sin and pressing on in holiness, refusing to associate with the unrepentant who claim to be "Christian" but love the world's ways (James 4:4).
- the **evangelist** to be so burdened for people to enter Father's Covenant in Jesus that nothing can hold him back until he has *planted a dynamic and genuine faith community* as Paul did. At that point he can move on to lead others into the Kingdom and establish other authentic families of called-out ones (Titus 1:5).

Our desire is that this kind of *love-driven intensity* to serve our Lord describes you. This is what causes us each morning to get up! Perhaps our Father has purposed that one of these anointings be given to *you*—but you're being held back because you fear leaving the religious crowds, or the loneliness and rejection that accompany these anointings (Hebrews 10:38).

Our Father has directed the focus of our materials to reflect HIS perspective and desire for you to live as His child. No doubt you recognize the contrast to the *self-indulgent, self-centered* teachings of clergy who want you to feel good about yourself so you'll remain in their congregation as a tithing regular. God's Word dictates why all our materials can be downloaded for free from our website: ***"Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we***

“speak before God with sincerity, like [a couple] sent from God” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

God's grace has provided so “creatively” for us as we work at home from a bedroom office in a senior mobile home park. He has filled us with contentment to live simply and to be fully available for His purposes. And it's our joy that these materials can be accessed around the world through our website, and copied and disseminated in whatever languages people are willing to translate them.

We've continually urged you to turn to the Spirit of Jesus within you, and by His Word confirm what we present to you (Matthew 18:18-20). His Spirit is faithful to guide your path and empower you to do His will—IF you have ears to hear (which scripturally means “obey”).

All the facets of the Hebraic foundations which we've been sharing with you over these years have been aimed at helping you do your part in extending the Kingdom of God for His glory. The best way you can understand your part in the Kingdom is to picture an all-out life or death battle in which there is *no compromise* (see 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:11,12).

Such love for Jesus and such little concern about yourself empowers you to readily lay your life down if it will help one more person enter the Kingdom. Isn't that the pattern of sacrificial love our Lord set (John 15:13,14)? Purpose now in your heart to always be ready to get out of the boat to serve our Master's purpose no matter how raging the storm is!

Don't be surprised if your relatives or friends no longer want to be around you if you're wholly Kingdom-minded for Jesus. We too have tasted that kind of rejection in order to fulfill our Father's commands. But we can encourage you with two testimonies from our almost-35

years of following Jesus in which we were spiritual family with others who loved Him so much that nothing else mattered.

The first instance took place while Mike was stationed aboard a Navy ship soon after embracing Jesus as Lord of his life. He and three other men lived for Jesus without any reservations, and the Spirit used them in such a way that nearly 125 sailors yielded to the Lordship of Christ during the cruise!

Our second experience of authentic family in Jesus occurred when we were part of a fellowship that met in homes. We mutually agreed to add to our number only those who had entered the Kingdom through the Spirit using any of us in some way. Again, the Lord showed himself mighty; our fellowship family grew and was joyfully able to multiply into two!

In both of these situations, the Spirit of Christ was alive in our midst with love and power. Every time we gathered (and often through spontaneous phone calls as well), testimonies abounded to our Father's love and faithfulness. Sadly, these seasons of relational intimacy in Spirit haven't been repeated much in our lives. Generally, most of the self-identified Christians we've encountered have been steeped in self-centered, contemporary Christianity. They're focused more on what they want *God to do for them* rather than eagerly serving the King of kings with grateful determination. The world's way of sinful compromise has proven an insidious enemy to living *holy and set apart for God's use*.

***“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also”***

(Luke 12:34; see also Matthew 13:43-46)

It's our life's joy to help as many as are willing to be true to our Lord Jesus to

evidence their loving trust in Him by their obedience to His Word. What gets us up in the morning is the hope that our labor for His glory would lead more and more people to be drawn to embrace our Father's Covenant in Jesus and be burdened for what burdens His heart—the **salvation of mankind**.

Do you *genuinely appreciate* the pain our heavenly Father went through to see His own Son suffer at the hands of men as they crucified Jesus for *your* sake? If not, then you probably haven't entered Covenant union with Him yet. Covenant union in Christ reveals the very heart of our Father, a ***compelling love that energizes your entire reason for living***.

Perhaps you just can't understand why the *Lordship* of Jesus should really matter to you. We grieve that so many are fulfilling the prophetic warning issued to Israel by Isaiah and repeated to the people of today:

*"They may be ever seeing but **never perceiving**, and ever hearing but **never understanding**; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"* (Mark 4:12)

A number of those on our mailing list have a Protestant denominational background. You may have been deceived by unbiblical teaching that being declared "saved" is all that God calls for in your life no matter how you choose to live. Yet, throughout the Gospels and the Epistles are commands for you to *do the Father's will!* The fruit of an obedient life testifies if you are genuinely attached to the Vine, Jesus, or living to appease your sin nature (see John 15:1-6.)

Similarly, many of the Jewish people during Christ's earthly sojourn were self-satisfied with their religious practices and

traditions. Then John the Baptizer punctured their balloon of arrogant self-admiration with this stern warning:

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire" (Luke 3:8,9).

So many from a Protestant backdrop have been deceived by self-promoting clergy and TV personalities that God exists to *improve your life*—to make you *happy*. But from His standpoint, you exist in Christ to do His will! Through Jesus we are *called to be holy*, not happy. And at the Judgment Throne, whose position will count—His or yours?

There are now over 38,000 various denominations and sects with competing and often opposing creedal positions. You may think you're diligent about understanding God's Word (John 5:39,40); but are you determined to *put it into practice* out of loving obedience to the One Who bought you with His own blood? (See Matthew 7:21-27.) Please, ask yourself:

- Do you share authentic fellowship with those who hold true to ALL of God's Word?
- Is active and responsive pursuit of the Lordship of Jesus foremost in your discussions with each other?
- Do you intentionally help one another live joyfully and fruitfully as His beloved slave?
- Do testimonies of His divine intervention in your daily lives readily flow?

If you are Roman Catholic, please research for yourself and discover:

- that nothing in the Bible ever indicates or even hints at Peter being the first "pope," a manmade ecclesiastical position that exalts one individual as "God's spokesman";
- that the religious pomposity and adulation of ecclesiastical leaders are an abomination to God, the ONLY One worthy of praise and adoration;
- that homosexuality among priests today may be as high as 70% in some seminaries;
- that the Vatican's control has been one of brutal enforcement, even to the martyrdom of true followers of Jesus (e.g., the Inquisition, persecution of Huguenots and countless others).

Wherever it's extended itself in the world, your denomination has adapted and mixed numerous pagan practices in order to attract and retain followers. Your leaders have discarded and distorted the commands of God's Word and replaced them with man-made traditions and sacraments to keep you in bondage to an unbiblical ecclesiastical system. Almost 50 years ago Vatican II charged you to read the Bible daily; do you?

To both Protestants and Catholics:

As long as a clergy person is positioned to define God's Word for you, you will be imprisoned by "selective teaching." You will NEVER be taught ALL of God's Word as His revelation of Himself and His way of life for those who are His own. Nor will you ever experience how to LOVE Him and others with ALL your heart, soul, mind and strength as He has commanded.

When you receive and put into practice ALL of God's truth that's presented to you by a biblical apostle, prophet or evangelist, you will understand the depth of love it takes to live in grateful obedient trust with Jesus as your Lord. Those who

walk authentically in these scriptural anointings don't seek their own following (1 Corinthians 3:3-11). Rather, through the Spirit at work in them and in you, you become equipped to follow the ONLY ONE Who can be your Head, Lord Jesus (Ephesians 4:15,16).

In our *Way of the Lord* series we've presented to you biblical truths from the Spirit of Christ to help equip you to serve Jesus as your Lord and Master—His blood-bought slave. (Paul and his co-workers consider that term a *badge of honor!* See Colossians 1:7 and 4:7, for example.) But having learned these truths, you now have to make a choice:

To go on resisting what Father is calling for in your life as a child He owns, or to walk in the steps of Jesus, willing to go anywhere and do anything for His Name's sake.

That means being willing to die to everything and everyone you hold dear, *when and where and how His Spirit directs.* Through His Spirit at work in you, the Spirit of the Living God, He's calling you to live in love for Lord Jesus so that doing Father's will, no matter what the cost, becomes your highest reason for living. Don't look around and wait for *others* to love and serve Him wholeheartedly first! You know in advance from your Master what this will cost:

"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law" (Luke 12:51-53).

Can you see why LOVE FOR JESUS and DYING TO SELF are essential for you to be willing to follow Him, even if those who are of your own flesh renounce both you and Him?

The challenge of an apostolic/prophetic ministry may seem hard for you to grasp in this culture of “self-designed religion” in which you pick and choose from God’s Word what you want to believe. But what joy and peace and purpose we know in our hearts as we experience our Father’s mercy and grace while carrying out *His* commands and directions! We sense how strongly He wants *you* to enjoy full fellowship with Him as you purpose to do His will for His glory. This is the wondrous privilege and responsibility of *all* He has called His own!

Please consider seriously the reality that Jesus will disown you if you *deny Him* and *refuse to do His Father's will* (see Matthew 7:21-27; Luke 12:8,9). We don’t know how long our Father will give us this window of opportunity to write and share via the Internet, but while it’s yet day we must obey.

A warning to you seniors:

Have you considered that YOU may be the greatest hindrance to your family encountering Jesus as Lord and being welcomed into heaven? You may feel secure in the financial security you spent decades obtaining. And in light of the present economic crisis, you may be hiding yourself in what we call "**The Hezekiah Complacency.**"

When the prophet Isaiah told that king about God's judgment, Hezekiah took comfort in the fact that the chastisement would happen *after he died* (2 Kings 20:19). Therefore he just shrugged, “*for he thought, ‘Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?’*” You may be hoping

that the rapid decline in this nation won’t impact your *own* security and peace before your death. But the greed and presumption of so many seniors has contributed greatly to the coming (and current) judgment of God on this country, yet so few are willing to face how they've sinned through self-serving motives and retirement goals that violated God's Word (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17).

Therefore we need to ask you with all sincerity:

- **By your *resistance* to repent and change, do you want to take your progeny with you as you slide down the broad, worldly slope that leads to hell?**

The ministry our Father has given is by no means popular or ear-tickling, yet it's what He has commanded us to do (Colossians 3:23). If your heart has come to experience the beauty of loving and serving Jesus as His precious slave and friend, these writings are an encouragement to you. But if you hunger for worldly pleasures and give lip service and religious performance to Jesus, these writings smell of death (2 Corinthians 2:15-17). Please, recognize if you are perishing. If so, repent, running to the One Lord of life!

Mike & Sue

“[May our Father] equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in you what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:21).