

The Supreme Test



“...DO YOU LOVE ME?...”

John 21:1-14

Spiritual Lessons

1. Christians are to fishers of people
2. Unless The Lord directs our activity, we will labour in the flesh, without results.
3. When the net of the Gospel is cast out and drawn in, it will be filled overflowing with people from every tribe and tongue.
4. Believers are looking forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb, when we will all share an eternal feast with Jesus.
5. The Supreme Test of the Christian – Do you Love Jesus?
6. Are you obeying His commands? Are you feeding His sheep or seeking to be fed and learn the Word?

John 21

Jesus' Last Words

Jesus Last Question

“Do you love Me?” – John 21:17

Jesus' Last Commands

“Feed My Sheep” - John 21:17

“Follow Me” - John 21:19

John 21:15-25

Do You Love Me? - Meaning

- Jesus address Peter as “**Simon, son of Jonah**”, not as the “rock”, indicating he is currently not the leader of church.
- By asking Peter, “Do you love me?” three times, Jesus was emphasizing the importance of Peter’s love and unswerving obedience to his Lord as necessary for his future ministry & reinstating Peter’s leadership.
- Jesus repeated His question to him three times, just as Peter previously denied Him three times.
- When Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” in John 21:15-16, He used the Greek word **AGAPE**, which refers to **unconditional love**. **Jesus is pleading for the love of the intellect or will, rather than just human emotion (feelings).**
- Both times, Peter responded using the Greek word **PHILEO**, which refers more to a brotherly/friendship/emotional type of love.

John 21:15-25

Agape Love vs. Phileo Love

- In other words, Jesus could be asking him, “do you love Me more than your fishing and everything else in the world”, or maybe since the other men didn’t deny Jesus, it could be implied “do you love Me more than these men?”
- The third time Jesus asks, “Do you love me?”, He uses the word **phileo**, and Peter again responds with “you know that I love you,” again using **phileo**.
- **Jesus repetition impresses the importance Jesus placed on Loving Him; Feeding His Flock (evangelism, teaching others, service) and in glorifying God, even unto martyrdom (John 21:19)**

John 21:15-25

Feed My Sheep

- Jesus gives Peter 3 Commands to “feed My sheep” in response to Peter’s three-fold declaration of his love for Jesus.
- Each Command is slightly different and means the following:
 1. **“FEED MY LAMBS”** – A lamb is a sheep that is under one year old. This means to **preach, teach, care for my followers** (sheep – Ps.95:7)
 2. **“TEND MY SHEEP”** – then be a Shepperd to My sheep – **Supervise them from a pastoral perspective.** (1 Peter 5:2)
 3. **“FEED MY SHEEP”** - **care for, disciple and provide spiritual food for God’s people**, from the youngest lambs to the full-grown sheep, bringing them into the fullness of spiritual maturity.

Food is the Word of God

1 Peter 2:1-3

² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Deuteronomy 8:3 (Matt. 4:4)

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that **man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.**

Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For **everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.** ¹⁴ **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

The Supreme Test

Mark 12:28-29 – The Greatest Commandment

“Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “**The most important one,**” answered Jesus, “is this: ...³⁰ **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**”

1. Discipleship

2. Conduct

3. Service

The Supreme Test of Discipleship

- Jesus has always been binding people to Him, not by force or fear, but by Love.
- Love brought Jesus to earth to die, and love would draw men and women to Him.
- Such a union is far more powerful than one based on forced obedience.
- Could any test of allegiance be stronger than this?
- Jesus did not mention any of the hundred things he could have...no doctrine, creed, theology, nothing about sin, repentance or service – Just LOVE

The Supreme Test of Discipleship

- Many church members are active and busy, but have no personal love for Jesus Christ.
- **Many are right in their heads (they know the doctrine) but wrong in their hearts!**
- **It's better to be right in your heart and wrong in the head!**
- Are you obeying as best you can the commands of God?
- Are you giving in tithes and service? Are you sacrificing for God and others? Do you want to from your heart (motivation)?
- Do you have a burden for souls and for doing all you can to obey Jesus' commands, including the Great Commission?
- John 14:15 - **"If you love Me, keep My commandments."**

The Supreme Test of Conduct

- We no longer need to ask is this or that right or wrong, or is this a sin, or how should I spend my time and money, etc.
- We simply apply the supreme test to all our actions.
- When a person becomes so filled with the love of Christ and the Holy Spirit, they will be anxious to serve and please the One who has won their affections.
- There will be no desire for the things of the world. **It's not hard to avoid something you don't like** - “**expulsive power of a new affection**”. The Love of Money & Worldly things will lose their attraction.
- **Do you love Jesus?** – if you do, then you will want to follow and obey Him and be satisfied with Him alone.

The Supreme Test of Service

- The incentive must be LOVE (heart), not obligation (head).
- Love demands Love. Jesus saved your life!! You owe Him everything!!
- If a human just risked their life to save yours, wouldn't you want to do all you could for them from your heart?
- Did the Apostles, the great saints and missionaries, the martyrs, give their entire lives to serving God, even to death because of duty or obligation? No!! It was because of love for the Lord.
- If an unhappy husband complained to his wife "I've given you everything...a home, wealth, position, retirement, what else can I possibly give you?" And the unhappy wife replies, "I want your heart, I want you to love me."
- **If Jesus appeared now to you and asked "Do you love me?", what would you say?** How searching it would be.

John 21:19

Jesus' Last Command

“FOLLOW ME”

- This is what Jesus commands of all Christians. It's much more than a “decision” and partial obedience.
- This is about discipleship, and the cost is high. (Matt. 10)
- Are you committed to be a disciple of Christ?...Prove it!

“Do you love Me?...Feed My Sheep”

- Jesus will hold you accountable at the Judgement Seat of Christ and your heavenly rewards will be determined by it.

“Follow Me”

The Calling → Discipleship ↔ Apostleship ↔

Salvation

- Repent
- Believe/Trust
- Forgiveness
- Born Again
- Holy Spirit Indwelling

Daily Communication

- Read the Word
- Pray
- Praise
- Worship
- Fellowship

Lifestyle

- Faith/Trust
- Surrender
- Love
- Obey
- Compassion
- Serving Others
- Resist Sin & Temptations
- Deny Yourself

Telling Others

- Proclaim the Gospel to Others
- Share Your Testimony
- Never be Ashamed of Jesus and His Words (Mark 8:38)

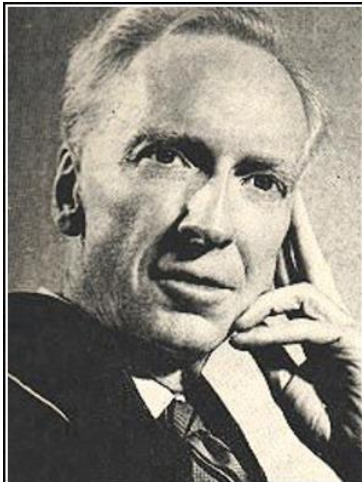
What it Means to Follow Jesus & Be a Fisher of Men (Mark 1:17)

The Great Commission



“There is one clear mandate to the church, and that is to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of all nations.”

Billy Graham



Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.

— *Oswald J. Smith* —

AZ QUOTES

- **“The supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world.**
 - **“You must go or send a substitute.”**
 - **“If you are opposed to evangelism and missions, then you are opposed to the will of God.”**
-

Oswald J. Smith

Witnessing – Wisdom from the Saints

"God had only one Son, and He was a missionary."

~ *David Livingstone*

"Someone asked 'Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?' It is more a question with me whether we -- who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not -- can be saved."

~ *Charles Spurgeon*



The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.

~ Hudson Taylor

AZ QUOTES

"You have one business on earth—to save souls."

John Wesley

The Great Commission

- The Great Commission is the **sharing of the Gospel message of Salvation to anyone who has not heard the good news**. It is the power of God unto Salvation.
- The average Christian does not comprehend the magnitude of their personal responsibility to the lost world and they don't feel any sense of responsibility in carrying out the Great Commission.
- We are commanded to go!
 - **If you do it, you will be rewarded. If you can't do it, support ministries that do.**
 - **If you ignore the command... then you will have blood on your hands and will lose your rewards in heaven.**
- The Great Commission emphasizes [ministry](#), [missionary work](#), [evangelism](#), and [baptism](#)

Great Commission

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<p>Matthew 28.19</p> <p>19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:</p> <p>20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.</p>	<p>Mark 16:4 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.</p> <p>15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.</p> <p>16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.</p> <p>17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;</p> <p>18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.</p>	<p>Luke 24:46-49</p> <p>46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written,¹ and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,</p> <p>47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.</p> <p>48 And you are witnesses of these things.</p> <p>49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.</p>	<p>John 20.21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on <i>them</i>, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the <i>sins</i> of any, they are retained."</p>

The Great Commission

Mark 16:15-16

15 “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Our Most Important Work

Jesus' Purpose for Coming into the World (Main Mission)

- 1 Timothy 1:15 - “**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**”
- Luke 19:10 “**the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**”
- Mark 2:17 “**I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.**”
- Acts 15:14 “Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles **to take out of them a people for His name.**”

Our Purpose As Christians (Main Mission)

Acts 26:15-18

¹⁵ He said, ‘**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you **for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness**...the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ **to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance** among those who are sanctified^[c] by faith in Me.’

The 5th Great Commission & The Purpose of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

⁸ But **you shall receive Power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**”

Satan's Strategy

- If soul winning is the most important work God has given us, it follows that Satan will try to deceive us that it is not.
- **“SOCIAL WORK”, “SOCIAL JUSTICE” and “SELF HELP PROGRAMS”** that contain no Gospel message or Bible Teachings have replaced the Great Commission in many churches, and these priorities often lead to a more **“LIBERAL”** interpretation of the Bible.
- **Bible teaching, evangelism, missionary work** (preaching the Gospel), the availability of Gospel tracts and free Bibles **are not priorities in many churches today.**
- The **problem** in the world at its root is **SIN** & the only **solution** is the **Gospel of God's salvation.**

Go and Tell Others

- Why should we share the Gospel & our testimony to others?

1. Because of What We Have – The Cure

- We have spiritual and eternal food, that can cure the deadly disease of sin and death. Forgiveness, God's presence in our hearts, joy, peace and the hope of life beyond the grave!

2. Because of What They Need – The Disease

- The blind lost world thinks they need physical and temporal things, but are dead in their sins, "perishing" and need of Life...The Bread of Life!

3. Jesus Commanded us to — John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments"

The Danger if We Don't Tell Others

- We were saved to serve! If we keep it to ourselves, we will grow cold and indifferent.
- The secret of growth in the Christian life is ACTIVITY. Go to work for Christ and you will grow strong. But if you keep this good news to yourself, you do so at your own peril.

Ezekiel 3:18

¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, '**You shall surely die,** and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but **his blood I will require at your hand.**

Acts 20:26-31

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day **that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*.** ²⁷ For I **have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God...** ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Psalms 51:13-14

¹³ **Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.**
¹⁴ **Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed,** O God, The God of my salvation,
And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Jesus' Ascension to Heaven

Matthew & John	Mark	Luke	Acts
<p style="text-align: center;">No Ascension Narrative provided</p>	<p>Mark 16:19 ¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.</p> <p>²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.</p>	<p>Luke 24.49 ⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”</p> <p>⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.</p>	<p>Acts 1:9-11 ⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”</p>

**If you enjoyed this teaching, your
financial support is appreciated:**

To make a donation,
e-transfer any amount to
darrylmckinnon@yahoo.com