

Lukewarm No More - Part 11

by George Verwer

Following Jesus Christ is a radical life-transforming calling that is fulfilling and will not leave you wrestling with boredom, and we need to support missionaries and give financially to reach the unreached people in the 1040 window.

Duration: 9:43

Scripture: Matthew 28:19, James 1:22

Topics: "Lukewarm"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of giving financially to support the work of God. He shares a quote from Billy Graham, stating that giving money is equivalent to giving one's life, as it represents time, talent, education, and hard work. The speaker shares his own experience of giving up his businesses and love of money to serve God, which he describes as a transformative and fulfilling experience. He also highlights the impact of financial giving in supporting various missions and projects around the world, such as buying Bibles in Kazakhstan and providing bicycles and New Testaments in India. The speaker urges the audience to have faith, not be intimidated by doubts or failures, and to actively participate in missionary work and supporting missionaries in countries where the church is not yet established.

Transcript

It's amazing how many young people say that they're bored. Is that still the big in thing it was a few months ago? Young people say they're bored. They're bored with church.

They don't want to go to church. A lot of young people. They're bored with the music.

You know, I can understand that. But I want to just say this to you young people here this morning. Following Jesus Christ is not boring.

Religion may be boring. But following Jesus Christ is way beyond going to church. Church is part of it.

It's way beyond singing hymns. Hallelujah, sing all the hymns you want. Following Jesus is a radical life transforming calling from God.

And it is fulfilling and you will not be wrestling with boredom any longer. Since my conversion, I absolutely do not exaggerate. I've never had a boring day.

That's 40 years. I'll be honest. I've had boring hours, boring minutes.

I think up to a half day. I've been bored when I woke up at night in a dark place and I forgot my flashlight. I didn't know what I was supposed to do.

I had to pray my way out of that one. I've met a lot of boring people. People have never had a boring day.

And I'll just tell you. If you're bored, you're probably either ill or backslidden. I say ill because there is a legitimate illness called depression.

I've never had it. My wife suffered from it for a year. And to talk to a depressed person, clinically depressed, that you're bored, something wrong with you spiritually is ridiculous.

She needed special help, medical help and other help. And after that year, I also needed to change my ways because some of the things I was doing were triggering her depression. Depression is a very complicated illness.

There are many kinds of depression. And she came out of that. But I'm not talking about that.

If that is not your case and you're still bored, you're probably backslidden. Come back to Jesus this morning. Now, I know you may not have been thinking about that when you came in here, you know, being a gymnasium and seeing the basketball rings.

But, you know, this is good enough for a church, isn't it? Don't you think a church is a good place to come back to Jesus? I know you can do it in a bar. You can do it in a gymnasium. You can do it on a skateboard.

You can do it climbing down Grand Canyon where I've rededicated my life. At 17 years of age, the second time I went there, it became my favorite place on the planet. But I'm convinced, I'm convinced many of the Lord's people sitting in church on Sunday morning are self-deceived to a certain extent.

That's why it says in James Chapter 1, Be doers of the word. If you hear the word and you're not a doer of the word, you deceive yourself. And if a character like me with all my struggles, doubts.

Do you ever get intimidated by your doubts? Do you ever get any doubts about the Bible? When I read some of these things in the Bible, I just can't figure it out and I've been studying for 40 years. And when I talk to theologians and they explain it, that helps me lose my faith even more. But I am convinced as a great Scottish theologian once said, Great faith is not in the absence of doubt.

Great faith is in the midst of doubt. What are the other options? I remember traveling to India once on a ship, very seasick, and so I laid down a horizontal combating seasickness and I listened to some tapes by a close friend named Dr. Francis Schaefer. I had a lot of struggles with the Bible.

I had a lot of questions. I had a lot of doubts. And I listened to this series of four or five tapes.

The big problems for the man who doesn't believe the Bible. And when I was finished with that series of tapes, or it was finished with me, I was filled with faith. Don't be intimidated by those doubts.

Don't be intimidated by those failures. Don't be intimidated by anything that Satan may attempt to throw at you as he is the master intimidator. But somehow stand tall by faith on the word of God and launch out as a missionary.

Launch out as a missionary mobilizer. Launch out as a sender doing God's will, going where he wants you to go. I plea, I plea with you in the name of Jesus, help us in India through your prayers.

Help us in other parts of the world. There's not time to go into detail. I will more perhaps in some of the other meetings.

But these days we often refer to the 1040 window. What is the 1040 window? How many know what the 1040 window is? Raise your hand. Well, about 10%.

It's one of the hottest mythological concepts that I've ever seen in missions these past 40 years. It's simple. The 1040 window has nothing to do with building a house.

It's a geographical zone. It simply refers 10 degrees north of the equator right here to 40 degrees north of the equator starting in North Africa. 1040 window.

That big bay window goes across North Africa, the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, right on over to Burma and right over to China and Japan. Mythologists have shown that about 90% of the more unreached people in the world live in that area. And they are calling for help.

Help through your prayers. Help through sending workers. American missionaries are needed as much as ever before.

They are not so much needed in countries where the church is strong and sending out thousands like South India. But there are many countries in the world where there are no nationals. How can we support nationals if they don't exist? Could you write me a paper on that? How can we support nationals when they don't exist? There are thousands of people's groups, thousands of people's groups because that's the way we think in modern missions more than about nations, where the church does not yet exist.

And so we need foreign missionaries. Now we know there's big changes. They're going to be coming from Korea.

They're going to be coming from Brazil. We're very much involved in all that, as OM is considered one of the more global mission societies in the world. But we still need Americans who will realize this is a priority.

And if you think that's even a possibility, please give us the privilege of giving you this book and reading through it so that you may be sure that you have the right priority in your life. We need your help. Some of you young people, could you not give us two years? One false cult has 40,000 young men on the field.

One false cult. They really believe their message, you see. I don't know what they do with their women.

There's 40,000 men. I don't want to mention who they are. They're mainly from Utah.

But there's 40,000. It's a scourge. Should not the body of Christ just in Texas? The body of Christ in Texas alone could give us 100,000 men and women.

And history over the last quarter of a century has proven that short-term missions is a valuable way to supplement existing church and missionary work around the world. And OM's very high degree of credibility in most nations of the world is a testimony of the effectiveness and the fruitfulness of short-term missions, though we are actually involved in both. Would you give two years? We're not talking about at

this particular moment commitment.

Commitment is a lifetime. But you can be totally committed to Jesus and live in Houston. Those who stay behind are not second-class citizens.

But if we're going to evangelize the world, if we're going to respond to these Macedonian calls, we need short-term, we need long-term, we need people who will even come for a few weeks. Some doctors and dentists go out for a few weeks. We have people come with us just for a summer as we have this Love Europe program that attracts thousands of people.

We need your help. I give you this Macedonian call. And finally, we need your help financially.

Two things people don't seem to talk about so much. One is sex, which I'm going to talk about tomorrow morning. The other is money.

Brothers and sisters, Billy Graham said, the hardest thing for a man or a woman to give is their money. When I heard that from Billy Graham, my spiritual father, I said, I don't agree with that. The hardest thing to give is your life, right? Billy Graham went on to say a person's money represents his time, his talent, his education, his sweat, his tears, his job, his toil.

And when he converts it into currency and gives it, he is giving his life. And I know that when God took over my life at 17 and 18, and I had those three businesses and a love of money, and I gave it all, it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. And as I have a network with businessmen and professional people around the world and see their giving and see their generosity and see how God is using their money, I have that opportunity to see how God uses \$1,000 that buys Bibles in Kazakhstan, to see how God uses \$50 that buys a bicycle in India, see how God uses \$100 that may buy 500 New Testaments for some needy part of the world.

I get more and more excited. And so I don't apologize. I am a fundraiser.

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