

When Jesus Comes (Will You Follow the Lamb, or Quit the Field Like Gideon's Thousands?)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

The sermon emphasizes the importance of following Jesus and living a heavenly life, and warns against stagnation and a lack of obedience.

Scripture: John 7:37

Topics: "Commitment to Christ", "Discipleship"

Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the call to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, contrasting the commitment of true disciples with those who, like Gideon's fearful soldiers, choose to retreat. He highlights the necessity of forsaking all to truly live in the Spirit and experience the abundant life Jesus offers. Waldvogel urges believers to awaken to their calling and to live out the teachings of Christ, rather than merely going through religious motions. He reminds the congregation that the Holy Spirit empowers them to fulfill their divine purpose and that true discipleship requires a radical commitment to Christ. Ultimately, he challenges listeners to reflect on their own dedication and willingness to follow the Lamb wherever He leads.

Transcript

Selected Verses:

John 7:37-39. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:19. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Luke 14:33. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Revelation 14:4. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

Opening:

...power and authority of Jesus Christ, ministered to His church--glory to God!--and flowing from His church, like He said: "rivers of living water shall flow from within him who receives the Holy Ghost." But what did God intend to do? All along the way, there have been apostolic people like Tersteegen, like Francis of Assisi, like Savonarola, like John G. Payton, like Madam Guyon, like many, many others whose lives transformed the whole world. They just... Well, the Apostle Paul is today molding the history of the world. There isn't a church in the world that hasn't received blessing from that life.

And these men were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they had something that God is striving to introduce in the Pentecostal movement. But do you know that every one of us is called to be a king and a priest unto God and our Father? Jesus says, "He that believeth in me, as the scripture hath said..." All of the Old Testament testifies of the fact that God is going to send a Savior who would save "to the uttermost," and He would send a Baptizer who would baptize His church and build a new city--a city of God that "hath foundations"--would build a city that would blaze with the light of Almighty God. And why hasn't it come?

And then again, the Old Testament tells that "In the days of those kings, God shall set up a kingdom that shall last forever and forever," and "the saints of the Most High shall take the kingdom"--the kingdom of "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." And why is it that that kingdom hasn't come?

Beloved, God's given us a wonderful taste of a heavenly life, but we got stuck; that's what's the matter. Jesus Christ said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." God wants us to live by the Son of God. God wants me to "know Him and the power of His resurrection." And beloved, the reason we don't is because we don't do what Jesus says: "He that will not forsake all that he hath, cannot be my disciple." There! We're eliminated.

...

Selected Quotes:

And Gideon said, "Go home. Anybody that's scared, go home!" My, President Eisenhower would say that today to all the boys in the army: "Anybody that wants to go home to mama, go home!" Well, that's what's the matter with us: we're mama's boys; we like to take it easy. And so Gideon says, "Go home. You can go home. You're a volunteer. You don't have to 'follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.' You don't have to take His cross upon yourself, and be obedient. You don't have to forsake everything and follow the Lord. You can be Pentecostal and still be like the world. You can be Pentecostal--you can come to church, and even speak in tongues, and you don't have to tarry and wait for the baptism. No, you can be in Pentecost for many, many years, and you'll get along all right..." But, beloved, go home. Go home! You're good for nothing!

...

Among the dry bones--and oh, how dry they are!--God Almighty finds one that wakes up. "And you hath He quickened..." That's necessary, beloved: to be awakened to the wonder of Jesus so that you will "forsake your own life also." Nothing else will do--nothing else, beloved. You'd feel like an awful poor piker getting into heaven if you hadn't forsaken all and followed Jesus Christ. But oh, to get a sight of Him!

...

"Whited sepulchers"! Oh, beloved, if we saw ourselves like God sees us, we would cry--we would cry to be delivered from this corruption. But we love it, and we heap upon ourselves whitewash. When you're washed white, you don't need to be whitewashed.

...

And you know, meetings will not mean to you what they ought to; they will not bring the blessing to you if you don't come to meet Jesus, and to hear from heaven, and then to go and do homework and act upon what you've heard. "God worketh in us to will..." How many times He does that in meeting! But during the week, He will "work in you to do." That's God's system--praise God!--"Because I live, ye shall live also." "I'm come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." And what kind of a life is that? It's your daily life lived in the Holy Ghost.

...

Have you learned to live the Sermon on the Mount? How simple! "Take no thought for the morrow." Almost everybody does, and forgets God. God says, "Let Me take thought." He says, "You can't serve two masters." You cannot "let the peace of God reign in your heart," and then have a lot of worry there too. Those are "thistles and thorns." Nor can you let "the pleasures of this life" rob you of the presence of God. Oh, beloved, to live the Bible is to have Christ reign--"reign in life."

...

Do you think God's satisfied with a lot of people that do nothing but warm the church benches and go through religious rigmarole? Oh, no. Before the foundation of the world--before Adam and Eve came forth from the hand of the Creator, God already had names "engraven in the palms of His hands." He had already set apart His Son to die on the cross to make possible the greatest work that has ever been done throughout the ages of eternity before and ahead of us.

...

I know that God's in earnest, and I know that out of this crowd, He's going to have a select company. Who are they? Very, very simple people, but they take God at His word; they're serious about it.

...

And today the Holy Ghost is here. What do we do with the Holy Ghost? Oh, what am I doing with the Spirit of the Living God? What am I doing? What has He come to do? He's come to bring me where Jesus is: "in the bosom of the Father." He's come to unite me to Almighty God who lives "in the light that no man can approach unto." He's come to sanctify me through and through, praise God! He's come to reveal in me the rest: "Some must--must--enter in." And we trifle and we play!

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Illustrations:

Comments on the U.S. government. "Why doesn't our Congress get down on their faces and call on God and repent of their sin?" (from 27:40)

German at 19:13:

Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe by Gerhard Tersteegen

In Wort und Werk, in allem Wesen

Sei Jesus und sonst nichts zu lesen.

In word and work and all being,

May Jesus be the only one others can read.

German at 20:56:

Misthaufen -- dungheap

References:

Only an Armor Bearer, a hymn by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876):

Only an armor bearer, firmly I stand,

Waiting to follow at the King's command;

Marching, if "Onward" shall the order be,

Standing by my Captain, serving faithfully.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/hans-r-waldvogel/when-jesus-comes-will-you-follow-the-lamb-or-quit-the-field-like-gideons-thousan/>

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