

Good for Nothing Christians

by James A. Stewart

The sermon emphasizes the importance of prioritizing the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and surrendering to Him in order to be 100% for Him and to have a valuable evangelized world.

Duration: 11:18

Scripture: Luke 9:23

Topics: "Discipleship", "Sacrificial Living"

Description

This sermon challenges believers to examine their commitment to Christ, emphasizing the importance of true discipleship and sacrificial living. It highlights the need for Christians to prioritize Jesus Christ above all else, even above family and personal desires, and to be willing to endure shame and reproach for the sake of the Gospel. The speaker urges listeners to consider whether they are truly new creations in Christ and emphasizes the call to follow Jesus wholeheartedly, without holding back.

Transcript

I want to speak to you briefly tonight on good-for-nothing Christians. And I believe, my brother, my sister, from the very depths of my heart tonight, and I say it very kindly, that our churches ourselves were good-for-nothing Christians. I mentioned last night about my dear friend Helen Union, who when she went home to heaven at the age of twenty-two caused weeping and weeping to take place all over my beloved lands of Scotland.

Memorial services were held for her. And the greatest of preachers broke down weeping and said that she was the mightiest saint he ever knew, the mightiest soul-winner he ever knew, the greatest soldier that Jesus Christ had in Scotland at that moment. And they broke down weeping.

Why? Because a great soldier in the army of the Lord had called him back. She had been transferred home to glory at only twenty years of age, twenty-two. And I asked her, young friend, if God calls you home to heaven tonight, would there be weeping in your church? Would there be weeping all over the history of our land? God's done all.

What shall we do without Mary? We cannot carry on the world without Mary. Would there be having days of fasting and prayers? If you went home to glory, how much would you be made? But good for nothing Christians. They are filled with men and women who profess to be supernaturally born again of the Holy Ghost.

They are filled with men who profess to be followers of the Lamb. And yet they contribute absolutely nothing to the growth of the church and to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, to the very uttermost parts of the earth. And yet tonight around us there are millions going to heaven, and furthermore hundreds of millions have never yet heard the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But I want to ask you tonight, are you one of these good for nothing Christians? And the words of God stand today, 2 Corinthians 5, 17, Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. All things are passed away and behold, all things will be found new. And if that process gone, there is not a new creation in Christ Jesus, then you have never been supernaturally born again of the Holy Ghost.

There's still images of the killed. They're empty processes. They cannot be baptized.

But they're only baptized on that night and the day before that. It's an empty procession. I say, I believe, friends, that the reason why we have so many false converts is because in our gospel message, we cannot preach the message of discipleship.

As I said yesterday, If you look in the book of Acts, the word Savior is only mentioned twice. While the word Lord occurs 117 times. And the full title of our Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Don't keep on saying Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. I love to say that, but that's still a mistruth, right? So God hath made this thing, Jesus, through your crucified Lord in Christ. He's the Lord Jesus Christ.

And I believe because we have failed to emphasize the Lord Jesus Christ in our gospel message, that we have so many sham contexts. And when we preach the message to believers, we must tell them what it costs them to follow the Lord Jesus. Now, this is not the language of diplomacy.

Jesus Christ will redeem no one. And the Lord Jesus paints the picture black and He says, Listen, if you're going to follow me, you've got to do the right thing. And I believe there never was a time when we needed to preach discipleship, as the day in which we live.

And when a young person says to me, Brother Stuart, can I still go here and be a Christian? Can I do that and still be a Christian? I raise a question, Mark, over the reality of this possession of faith. And the question should not be, how far away from Christ can I be and still be a Christian? How far away from Christ can I still live and love Him? No, the question should be, not how far away, but how near to Christ can I be? Now, the Savior says, I am building a building. Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I do not want to incorporate any material in my building that will not stand the thorns of persecution and opposition. I remember at a missionary gathering in Belfast some years ago, I gave the invitation at the missionary convention of some 100 missionaries for young Belfast young people who would follow the law, who would be willing of the Holy Ghost souls to go anywhere and fix the knot over the other old Belfast here. About 130 young people came forward.

And I said, you meet me in the smaller room. And when I was in that smaller room, you would have thought they were ready to be shot. They didn't look at each other, they didn't laugh, they didn't giggle, they didn't move.

They just shook straight ahead as if they were condensed in air. And there was no emotion whatsoever. Maybe a trickle of tears in the eyes.

And I said to them, you understand what's going on. It means that you have to say farewell to your father, mother, and your loved ones and not see them for years. And maybe you'll contract disease and die.

Maybe you'll be put to death by salvages somewhere in a dungeon. Are you ready to follow Christ? Now, you've stood, you've come forward in the big meeting. Will you quietly stand where you are? And every one of these young Irish people in cold blood sitting without any tears.

Life in it. And I said, will you say yes, Lord? And everyone said yes. Okay.

That's what I mean. You do it in cold blood. Lord, I will follow thee with a fellow soldier.

Now, if you love anybody or anything more than you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot be his disciple. If you love your mother, if you love your father, if you love your brother, if you love your sister, if you love your wife, if you love your husband, if you love your children, if you love your sweetheart more than you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot be his disciple. And the motto of our life must be Colossians 180.

In everything Christ must have, preeminent in the first place. He doesn't just want the place of prominence. He wants the place of preeminence.

The Holy Ghost, in every convention, in every Bible gathering, is fighting for the supremacy of Jesus Christ in your hearts. And we are asked to present our bodies a living sacrifice to do to the Holy Ghost. And Jesus Christ is the Holy Ghost is fighting for the supremacy of Jesus Christ in your life.

And he will not worry for one second, but let Christ have his second. And I believe that a lot of you young people will be out to the 40 mission fields if you love your Savior more than you love your narrator. And when Peter was being restored, the Lord Jesus said, Peter, think thankfully of me.

I will answer thee questions. Simon, be the lovest of me, more than thee. Do you love me more than you love the deep blue sea of Galilee? Do you love me more than you love your fishermen? Do you love me more than you love your wife and children? Do you love me more than you love the disciples? Simon, be the lovest of me.

Do you love your deep blue sea of Galilee? Do you love your America more than you love Christ? Do you love your business, your home, your loved ones? Do you love other things, other people more than you love Christ? Now what is the believer's cross? It's the shame and reproach of your identification with the cross of Jesus Christ. Paul says, I have been crucified with Christ. The writer of the Hebrews says, let us therefore go unto him of Christ at hand, bearing his reproach.

Now the moment you bear the shame and reproach of the Lord Jesus Christ, because you are his disciples, then you take up your cross and you're calling it. And I was preaching in the waves in 1934, just coming as a young man who was in a Bible conference over there. And Brother Paul Raymond, he's my brother too, he said, be careful what you say in this Bible conference.

This is what you'll meet. He said, don't say anything you don't mean. Now if you say you need a nurse for Morocco, you'll have ten young women standing right up in front of the goal.

If you say you need ten thousand pounds for the missionary work, the remains coming up the chest will say, how much, how much? We'll examine it. And then with slow deliberation, we had to talk to these

people, because every one of them, about a thousand of them, didn't want to give in. We're willing on a moment's notice to reach out with a mention.

Now what does it mean? Let this truth be God's auto-sacrifice. This is something deliberate. Realizing I'm bought with a price I'm not my own.

I, first of all, present my share on God's auto-sacrifice. And then I present my time on God's auto-sacrifice. And then I present my pounds on God's auto-sacrifice.

Oh, if every believer, not just us, would give God's auto-sacrifice, we would have a valuable evangelized world to move. And then I present my money on God's auto-sacrifice. And I present my loved ones on God's auto-sacrifice.

I want to be a hundred percent for my blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

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