

Following the Lord

by K.P. Yohannan

We are called to continue the journey and fulfill our commission to serve God and others, making a difference in our small sphere of influence.

Duration: 23:01

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 28:18-20

Topics: "Following Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares a real-life story about a man named Gunnar who had a profound impact on people's lives through his daily commitment to sharing the gospel. Gunnar had made a promise to himself to tell 10 people about Jesus every day, and he did so by giving out gospel tracks. Over the course of 40 years, he witnessed to and talked to an estimated 146,000 people. Despite living in a small house and having limited means, Gunnar saw every interaction as an opportunity to bring someone closer to Christ. The preacher emphasizes that we are all called and commissioned to continue this journey of sharing the gospel, and that even the smallest acts can have a significant impact in God's upside-down kingdom.

Transcript

Separating spiritual things from physical reality is the creation of the pragmatic thinking Europeans in 19th, 18th and 17th century. It only gets worse and worse and worse. So when they see the sun and the moon and the stars, they said nothing.

But the ancient, when they saw that, they stood still and they said, Oh God, how great you are. When they saw the beautiful flowers on the lake and the seasons change, they didn't say, Oh, it was no more a horizontal experience, but it was, God, how amazing you are. These flowers, the way they look so brilliant, the colors are so bright against dark background, the contrast, only you could do it.

Seeing God through his creation and what happened in 17th century, the age of reason they call it, the greatest domination that came upon the church or that began with we pulling things apart. For example, Jesus died on the cross and he was buried and he rose again. The absolute final act in book of Hebrews chapter 1, it says, in sunny times or times past, God almighty revealed himself in so many ways to so many people, little by little.

It's talking about all religions, all philosophers, all searchers, but in these last days, he revealed himself completely fully through his son. So he would say, it's a disciple. Well, all we want is this God you talk about, the father you talk about.

And Jesus would say, if you see me, you have seen the father. So what does that mean? I'm with you. I live with you.

The chapters, Acts 9, you know, the passage talked about Paul's conversion. Saul with his friends are marching on to Damascus to kill Christians and Jesus, you know, has this personal encounter with him and nobody else understand it. And you know, that's the whole story.

And then Psalm 30, by the way, it is written by David. And if you study that in the background, it's quite interesting. It is a life full of struggles and confusion, failures and everything.

And he embraces all this and march on saying, oh God, my life is linked with you. And then you have Revelation chapter 5 talks about multiplied billions of angels and the saints and all. And you know, we are given a glimpse to look beyond time and realize we are on the journey toward that.

And then John 21 is Peter, which I told you about, who just said, I could, I'm going for fishing. You know, I didn't want this business anymore. I failed enough.

But Jesus won't let him go. The call is still there. The Jesus who called him three and a half years ago, keep his promise.

Think about that, apply that to your life. If you take all these verses and our theme is call and commission. That is you have to, you must believe against your feelings that you and I are here because God designed it before the world began.

You didn't create this, God did it. If that be so, whatever happens around us, it's a design and we are part of it. And nothing happens anytime in your life.

It's an end. It is a journey. Never give up, never stop.

But what does God want through whatever happens to us? Simply this, when Adam and Eve hand over the property deed, Aadharam, to Satan in the Garden of Eden, the ownership of the earth, he handed over to Lucifer and he became the ruler, the owner of the earth. Second Adam, he came, the Lord Jesus Christ, and still the property deed is not in his hand. You read that in Revelation 5, it will be handed over to him.

But here is the thing, we are now in a kingdom ruled by Lucifer and billions of demons. They are extremely well organized, million times better organized than any government of any country of the world. He's a ruler of the world.

Now here's what I want you to think with me. When you and I disobey the laws of the country where we live, we are punished. Now we live in the enemy's territory, C.S. Lewis would use those words, and we are called upon to disobey the rules and laws that transcends of a different world that is of Christ.

I would put it, a Christian worldview, biblical worldview, not the world worldview. Don't look for name, fame, power, money, any of those things, be a nobody. If you do good things, try, nobody know about it.

But if you do let the world know, you do it for only one reason, that God will get the glory for it. You see, it's an upside down kingdom, the laws are different. So Christ's death on the cross and resurrection, he commissions his disciples that he called, saying, this is what I wanted to do, as a father send me, I'm sending you.

And Jesus didn't travel more than a few kilometers in his entire life. Just like the sun that stands out there millions of miles away, and give warmth and light and life to the whole world, you can be even one little room like Mother Teresa and become the reason for being the light and the salt and life once you embrace the totality of God's design. That's what she did.

And people imitate that and many do and succeed also. So how does this apply for us? That is the whole question. I want to just take a few minutes, which for long ago I may have read the story, but I want to read this little story to you and end it.

I will not take any more time for this. This is the story of a man called Mr. Gunnar, and it's a real story. This all started a number of years ago in a church in Crystal Palace in South London.

The Sunday morning service was closing as a man stood up at the back and raised his hand and said, excuse me reverend, can I share a short testimony? He asked. The priest looked at his watch and said, well you have three minutes. Then the man proceeded with his story.

I have just moved into this area and used to live in Sydney, Australia. Just a few months back I was visiting some relatives and I was walking down George Street. That's the name of the street there.

A strange little white haired man stepped out from a shop, put a tractor, pummeled it in my hand and said, excuse me sir, are you saved? If you die tonight, will you go to heaven? I was astounded by these words. No one had ever asked me that. I thanked him and all the way home to London this puzzled me.

I called a friend and thanked God that he happened to be a believer, a Christian, and that friend led me to Christ. The congregation loved testimonies like that. Everyone applauded and welcomed him into their fellowship.

The story continues. The clergy from this London church who told this man, you have three minutes now, it is about him. This man flew to Australia to the place called Adelaide.

The next week and 10 days later in the middle of three day service in a church, a woman came up to him for some counseling. He wanted to establish where she stood with Christ and asked her such questions. To his question she responded, I used to live in Sydney and just a couple of months back I was visiting some friends in Sydney doing some last minute shopping down George Street.

A strange little white haired man stepped out of a shop door where offered me a tractor and said, excuse me madam are you saved? If you die tonight are you going to heaven? I was disturbed by those words. When I got home I knew this church near me and I sought out the priest there and he told me more about Christ and led me to Christ. So I'm telling you that I am a born again Christian.

The story continues about the priest again. The London priest now very puzzled, twice in two weeks he had heard the same story. He then flew to preach in the Mount Pleasant church in Perth.

When his teaching service was over the senior elder of the church took him for a meal and asked the elder, and he asked the elder how he got saved. He said, I grew up in this church from age 15. I never made commitment to Jesus.

Just hoped on the bandwagon like everyone else because of my business ability. I grew up, my business grew up to a place of great influence. I was on a business trip to Sydney.

Just three days ago an obnoxious spiteful little man stepped out of a shop doorway, offered me a religious pamphlet. He accosted me with a question, excuse me sir are you saved? If you die tonight are you going to heaven? I tried to tell him I was a Baptist elder and he wouldn't listen to me. I was seething with anger all the way home from Sydney to Perth.

I told my pastor thinking that he would sympathize with me but he had been disturbed for years knowing that I have not had a relationship with Jesus and he was right. My pastor led me to the Lord Jesus Christ three years ago. The London clergy flew home and soon he was speaking at Keswick convention in Lake District and I was there one time and he threw some of these testimonies about these people getting distracted there in Australia and coming to Christ and after him saying this four elderly priests clergy came up and explained that they too had been saved between 25 and 30 years earlier through that same little man on George Street who offered them this gospel tract and asked them the same old question.

The following week the London priest flew to a similar Keswick convention in the Caribbean. He shared the same stories and 15 people came up and said we had we too had the same experience and they gave their lives to Christ. Then this London pastor he flew to Atlanta Georgia that's in the United States and he was the speaker for the American naval chaplains convention and after three days of speaking now I'll summarize it the head of this whole thing took him for a dinner and this pastor this London clergy asked tell me how did you come to Christ? Then he describes the story.

I was a naval battleship officer and lived in a reproachable life. We were doing exercise in South Pacific and we docked at Sydney harbour for supply. We hit king's cross that's a street with vengeance that means doing the worst you can imagine.

I was blind drunk got on the wrong bus and got off in George Street and I got off the bus I thought I saw a ghost as this man jumped out in front of me pushed a pamphlet in my hand and said sailor are you saved? If you die tonight are you going to heaven? The fear of God hit me immediately. He said I was shocked sober ran back to the ship and sought out the Christian chaplain. He led me to Christ.

I soon began to prepare for the ministry under his guidance. I am now in charge of 1,000 chaplains who are bent on soul winning. The story continues.

I need to end. This man ended up in one of the South Asian countries to speak at a missionary convention and asked the leader of this whole church movement how did you come to Christ? He says I was a diplomat in Australia and I went for shopping on the street and this crazy looking old man jumped out of the doorway and gave me a tract and asked me this question and he was born and raised not in a Christian home and that became the reason for this man to give his life to Christ now leads a movement of thousands of workers it's a real story.

So but the story ends finally our London pastor was so desperate to meet this Mr. Gunner this little old man so he happened to fly to Australia to Perth and then he landed there he asked the local clergy you

know there's a man called Mr. Gunner who passed out oh yeah everybody knows him he said you want yeah I'd like to see him so they go and knock at the door and this little old man comes out and opens the door alone he lives in a little house and welcomes them in and he says let me give you some tea and his hand shakes and bring them tea and then this London priest tells him all this experience and then Mr.

Gunner just start crying he says until this day I never heard anyone ever giving their life to Christ over the 40 years or so I've been doing it every day and then he tells when I was a young man living in horrible darkness when Jesus saved me I made a commitment that every single day I will tell 10 people about Jesus and the only thing I could do is to give 10 gospel tracts if I fail to do it one day the next day I will make it up wherever I go that is all I'm looking for and that's what I've been doing that's all I could do and it is figured out through the calculations they did in the end 146 000 people he witnessed to and talked to just by doing it so living there in a tiny little house only a means for him to be in touch with the invisible the street he walked on the real world is a means for him to get to one more person the sun shines out there is a means for him to do his work till the last second he can see somebody's face and give it and the little tea cups and whatever he can do to say thank you for coming here was only a means for him to say thank you because of Jesus you came here so are we all called to do this we are are we commissioned are we commissioned to continue the journey the rice and the mangoes yes it's wonderful to harvest all of them but if it sits in one place it rots away and we are supposed to now use our money our time our smile our telephones our emails and our vehicles and whatever anything and all things because have we ever seen somebody at their funeral service yesterday I was in one place the man 51 years old I looked into the coffin he was not wearing the watch he was wearing when he was alive there were no rings on his hand there was no purse with money in his back pocket as a matter of fact I think they found the one of the cheapest wood that rot as fast as possible which everybody does you take nothing with you and I take nothing with me the only way to make sense is to plug into these visible realities that God allows us for things that will not perish in time but 99 percent of Christians or believers don't even think about it what do parents want my children to be the best professional people do they cry out every day oh God I pray you call my little boy to serve you there's no greater privilege than that oh God I pray give me wisdom how to spend my money to get more bibles in the hands of people help a poor little kid go to school how I can how I can take a day just to be on the street and talk to the beggars and lepers and then tell them I love you and Jesus cares about you can I pray for you you see those are the means we fulfill the commission our saved being saved or no God is not the ending itself the journey must continue and we are called for that

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