

Just Following Jesus (P3)

by K.P. Yohannan

K.P. Yohannan emphasizes the urgent need for Christians to align their lives with the mission of Jesus to seek and save the lost through love, humility, and compassion.

Duration: 24:52

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Luke 10:27, Luke 19:10, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Hebrews 5:8, 1 John 2:6

Topics: "Following Jesus"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of living as Jesus lived. He references Matthew's Gospel chapter nine, highlighting Jesus' compassion for the suffering and abused. The speaker challenges the audience to have a heart that breaks for those in need, such as the people in Burma, Iraq, India, and Haiti. He also discusses Jesus' passion for the lost and shares a testimony of a film team that witnessed many people coming to Christ in a Muslim-populated area. The speaker encourages listeners to pray and actively participate in reaching the lost world.

Transcript

Jesus Christ came to seek and save the lost. That was his agenda, but is it ours? Here's KP Yohanan. In Dallas, Texas, we have 13 or 14 or more full-time Christian radio stations, 24 hours, teaching everything from extreme conservative teachings to the most liberal thing, and music from all spectrum.

Every week we have a new Bible translation coming out with somebody's name, notes with it. What a dumb thing going on in this country, when half of the world have never seen one page of the Bible. Every telephone post is a church building.

How much more stuff do you need? How much more studies do you need before you understand there is a world out there that never heard Christ's name? In the last days, people will be lovers of themselves. The second letter to Timothy, chapter 3, tells us that, and wow, does that describe our world today. It's even a problem in the church, as too often we're concerned more about ourselves than the lost world around us.

Hey, this is Richard Buse here. Today, on the road to reality, Brother KP Yohanan places the spotlight on 1 John, chapter 2, verse 6, as he encourages us simply to follow Jesus. As we study the scriptures, we learn how he lived, that's how we're to live, and his agenda must become ours.

Here's KP with more. Being spiritual and godly and being like Christ happens, as it says in scripture, he, about Christ says, learned obedience through suffering. I, you know, I used to be more black and white, very put people on the spot kind of guy, but all the years of my walking with the Lord, I learned that I'm weak, everybody's weak, so I have no agenda to put you on a trip and make you, you know, crawl under the hole and say I'm a bad sinner.

No, but I want to ask a simple question. When was the last time you spent an hour or two alone with the Lord? When was the last time you spent a few days in fasting? When was the last time you said, I am no more going to get all the catalogs that comes to my house that tells me to buy this, buy that, buy that, all this stuff. You see, you cannot divorce spirituality from your doing things, and there are some things in the scripture that we read about Christ as we read through four gospels that kind of stands out.

I got about a dozen of them, but there's no way to go through all of them, but I will just mention them to you. As he was in the world, so we are now. How did he live in the world? One you find in John 13, he said, I want you to know I love you, and I want you to love one another as I have loved you.

Now, until now, they saw how much Christ loved them and cared for them. Now he says, I'm going to leave, and I want you to follow my example, and I think, especially in this culture where people fight over every little doctrine you can imagine. I remember reading a book, I mean a couple of hundred pages, this guy who wrote this book saying that if you are not reading King James and only King James, you are promoting false doctrines.

Now, my problem is I hardly can understand kindergarten English. Reading King James, I mean, it's like Greek to me. I have no way to figure this out, and I don't say King James, I mean, I do have King James Bible, and I study it, and then I've been all the different translations, but the body of Christ is so divided over so many insignificant issues that we call for revival and authenticity, and the world is going to hell, and they can't see God's love in us, and I'll never forget talking to a politician in India.

The guy has a PhD in a high level position in the Indian government, and he's a Hindu by the way, and he asked me the question. He said, you know, can I ask you a question? I said, yeah. He said, you know, the place I live in Bangalore, there are so many churches with so many different names, and they all seem to be so segregated.

One group cannot go to the other place, but as Hindus, we got 300 million gods, and anyone can go to any temples, no barriers, but you only got one god, but everybody is all divided into so many groups. He said, how does that work? I never had anybody ask me that question, by the way, so I said, yeah, you got a good question, but you know, I mean, he said, we got 300 million gods, but we are one. You got one god, you got thousands of groups, and then of course, you know, this is a longer conversation.

He talked about the court case going on between this group and that group, and he had to deal with some of those issues, and all these different things, all among Christians, and now my brothers and sisters, this I will tell you, you know, we need to have conservative godly doctrines. There's no way we can negotiate about certain doctrines, the uniqueness of Christ, the scripture, infallibility of the scripture, salvation, Jesus is the only way, there's no two different ways, and his call for us to be his, but we fight over a thousand things that are not at all significant, and usually leaders are doing the whole thing, not the people, and as people of God, if we can embrace the reality of Christ loving the prostitutes, the drunkards, the weak, the mean, the one who was condemned by the religious crowd, he loved them all. It is one thing to maintain our convictions, it is another thing to love them as Jesus loved.

I remember some years ago, one night we were going to bed, my wife and I, and I was talking about one of my staff persons, many many years ago by the way, and I said, I just don't know what to do, I had to, you know, get this person out of the office, you know, and she heard all this, you know, usually your wife is the best person to correct you, believe it or not, and she's a very sober minded godly individual, so she heard all my complaining, murmuring about this individual, and then she said very calmly, she said, can I ask you a question? I know I'm in trouble. She said, he loves this brother so much, have you ever considered the Lord saw you as one individual that can help him, and God want no one to perish, no one to lose, have you ever considered to cooperate with God to make him succeed? I said to myself, I hate when you preach at me like this, but that changed my paradigm completely. I realized that, my goodness, I need to work with my Lord to help him, to change him, that changed my life forever, and that individual is still with me after 20s, 80s years, very much part of my life, I can't imagine life without him, and I changed more than he changed, you see, so much of our expectation for God has so little to do with what actually he wants, it is us, our righteousness that we want to enforce and establish, not his.

The second thing about our Lord, as he was in the world, we must be, it is his humility, you know, one of the, the only place I think where Jesus talked about himself in Matthew chapter 11, when he said, take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am humble, and humility is not something that we put on, say, I'm weak and humble and simple, no, basically it is an attitude of heart, attitude that when you meet the least and the last and nobodies, you consider him to be more important than you. I come from my Indian background, upper caste family, and we have so many castes, and then you have the backward caste, then we have the Dalits, so people who come from Brahmin background, it's a DNA within us, that when we look upon other people, you don't have to explain to us what caste they belong to, instantaneously, instinctively, like a bird that knows instinctively where to go, we know that, and you know, what I'm telling you is what the Lord had to do in my own heart, to find out when I find a low caste or Dalit, and many, many years ago the Lord spoke to me, you want to leave the upper caste Brahmin who is waiting on appointment with you, and you bypass all of them and go to the least and the last, and embrace him, and ask what do you want, what can I do for you, and I think it is much easier to live with our equals, buddy-buddy, or please our superiors, how do we treat the least and the last and nobody. It's a good question to ask ourselves, how do we treat the least, the last, and the nobody.

Remember Christ's words, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me. There's a powerful book, ladies and gentlemen, The Jesus Style by Gail Irwin, that brings the reader face to face with how Jesus lived. What is he really like? The Jesus Style gives us powerful answers for today, and is our suggested resource right now, and you can get a copy for a suggested donation of five pounds plus post and packing.

You can also find many other assets to help us in the walk with Christ. Would you go to roadtoreality.org.uk or telephone us on 01904-643-233. Again go to roadtoreality.org.uk or call us on 01904-643-233.

Now let's return to Brother KP. One of my recent books I wrote, I dedicated that book to one of our brothers here who cleaned the yard, and cut the grass, and cleaned the toilets, and he's not in the senior most leadership team, and he's not sitting in a decision-making, nothing like that. He's basically, nobody sees him.

He's a brother who's been behind the scene as a servant of our servants. So I dedicated the book to him, and he didn't know that. Nobody knew that, you know, and I said, Lord, I want to dedicate this book to

someone.

It's a strange feeling. What you have done to the least of these my brothers, you have done it for me. Dedicate this book to me.

I said, Jesus, that's great! But the name is not Jesus Christ. It is somebody else. Someone who is so simple, and humble, and nobody, that Jesus lives in, and lives through.

And I think we genuinely lack humility, but we pretend to be humble. And I think the real Christ, when you touch me, is not promoting himself or herself, you know, just being real. And one of the marks of humility is that we don't pretend.

You know, children can't pretend. And, you know, not because my seminary days, I did study psychology and counseling somewhere. I'm not an expert in it, but I can tell you one thing I'm convinced about.

Don't underestimate other people's intelligence. No matter how you try to be humble, and spiritual, and pretend, and all these things, somewhere along the line, your spirit will give away who you really are. If you don't believe me, read Watchman's book, A Release of the Spirit.

You'll find it. So, just be honest, you know, just be real. You know, I was talking to my brother here, who is the senior pastor of the church here, and I love your church.

I love you, and I like it. Because the times I've been there, he's a young man, just stands up and no pretense. He just says the way life is.

And this kind of reality is what Jesus lived with, and I think He calls us for. Number three, John 11, you read this about the Lord's obedience, you know, how He lived under absolute submission to His Father. He said, I do nothing of my own.

My time is not to come. And doing God's work in His way, and in His time, is more critical than doing our way. And I have a book, by the way, Touching Godliness.

If you have not read a book, copy of that, please do get a copy of that. I talked much about this, living under absolute submission to the authority God placed over us. And number four, as He lived, we should live now.

You read Matthew's gospel, chapter 9, His compassion. When He saw the multitude, He was moved with compassion. And I'm telling you, whether you like me or not, if you are not able to weep over the people in Burma, or the suffering in Iraq, or India, or Haiti, something that don't grip you, you need to be concerned about where you are.

When He saw the suffering and the abused, the Dalits and the forsaken, His heart broke. If you are more concerned about window shopping and trying to figure out your doctrines, something is missing. And may the Lord help us.

And number five, His passion for the lost. There's no question about it. He described about His agenda, the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

I do not know anyone that truly came to know the Lord intimately, and didn't have a desperate passion concern for the lost world. There are people who say to me, you know what, I am called to be a teacher.

I'm called to be a pastor.

You are called to be an evangelist. I say, quietly, you are stupid. I won't say it out loud.

There is no greater teacher than Jesus Himself. There's no greater teacher than Apostle Paul, who said, if cutting my throat and pouring my blood out would save people, I would do it. By all means, pulling some out of fire.

And Jesus, the greatest of all teachers, went to the cross to save sinners. And one of the crises we have in the church today, with all the revival and all the other stuff people talk about, some two billion people in our generation that do not know the Lord, and on the way to hell. Over a billion Muslims, one of the strongest, most difficult barrier to break through.

Some 180,000 people die every single day, and plunge into hell. And we are still collecting few people to have Bible study groups, and our awana groups, and our worship groups, and all these things. I just can't imagine a church with 2,000, 3,000 people can go through, Sunday after Sunday after Sunday, then all of a sudden, the news breakthrough, saying that 100,000 people died in Bangladesh overnight in typhoon, and they go on with life as though nothing happened.

What on earth is wrong with them? The crime of the century is the preachers in the pulpit, who do not understand the heart of God, do not believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven, and there is a hell that's waiting for people who die without him. You know, some years ago, I sent out a letter saying that, if we have books sitting around that you don't read, you read, you want to send it away, so we can ship it to overseas for libraries, and all those things. Would you believe if I tell you within three months, we had over 100,000 volumes people shipped to us here.

In Dallas, Texas, we have 13 or 14 or more full-time Christian radio stations, 24 hours teaching everything from extreme conservative teachings to the most liberal thing, and music from all spectrum. Every week we have a new Bible translation coming out with somebody's name, notes with it. What a dumb thing going on in this country, when half of the world have never seen one page of the Bible.

Every telephone post is a church building. How much more stuff do you need? How much more studies do you need before you understand there is a world out there that never heard Christ's name, and then you claim and I claim we follow Jesus at the New Testament. It is all an illusion.

As Paul said, they followed another Christ. You travel with me to China, or Bhutan, or Afghanistan, or Bangladesh, I can bet my life on it. You may run into one in 100,000 pastors or missionary who had anything more than his own Bible.

If lucky, he has a whole Bible. Like in Tripura, they only have New Testament. There's no Old Testament, yet translated, not printed.

You know, one of the enemies of true spirituality is all the Bible study groups going on in this country. You say, that sounds weird. You know why it is? We are making more Pharisees out of believers through this nonsense approach to studying, and studying, and studying, and studying, without telling them, stop it, kneel and repent, and do something about it.

And I do not know what the future is. Maybe this economy, the collapse, maybe will bring us to the place that you are not going to go driving all over the world for window shopping. There's no gas to do that.

And I pray that God will wake us up with the reality of the lost world. And I do not think we need 5 million people to do that. I think we have enough people here, if you will get serious.

Well, you happen to be at the headquarter of Gospel for Asia here in the United States. And if what all I've been saying to you has any meaning, you can pick up materials to read further about it. And one of the passion we have is to see 100,000 workers trained and sent out to reach these unreached nations.

And by the grace of God, we see some 17 churches planted every single day among people that never heard the Gospel. I was, as a matter of fact, you know, on the telephone half hour prior to my coming down to speak here. And it was an incredible news.

Again, every single day I hear something that's exciting. One of our film teams, we have 400 units team that go around, show the life of Christ among people that illiterate, they never heard Christ. And they were in Jammu, Kashmir, where thick population of the Muslims.

And they were there for two weeks. And they said, so far they have some 400 plus people came to Christ. And they just baptized 32 people the first day, public baptism.

And the huge opposition broke out. And they went to the police saying that, what are we going to do? And they said, the best thing to do, you find a place, put a cross on the top and gather all your people and start doing your worship. And that is a good news.

What I'm saying, how much, how much God is working, how thirsty people are. And the question is, do we want to have a part in reaching the lost world? I don't back out from telling people, this is your call to pray and reach the lost world and do as the Lord tells you to do. All right.

Thank you for listening. It's been good to talk to you. Again, your eyes, your face tells me you are here because you mean business.

And may the Lord use our lives to glorify his name. Let's pray. And Lord, thank you for this time of sharing and learning from you.

And the best I know, I try to communicate with my brothers and sisters what I felt you want me to say. Now, Lord, take these feeble words of mine and I pray that you will use it to bring forth fruit, fruit that will remain. And thank you for your grace and ask for your blessing upon us.

In Jesus' precious name. Amen. Amen.

It's as simple as daily following Jesus. And today on The Road to Reality, we've seen what that looks like with K.P. Yohannan. Once again, our suggested tip for you is the book The Jesus Style by Gail Irwin.

Let every day be part of the adventure on planet earth as we take in what it means to be side by side with the master of the world. For that book and other helpful upbuilding items, go to roadtoreality.org.uk or phone us on 01904 643 233. That's roadtoreality.org.uk or 01904 643 233.

This is Richard Bews with Gospel for Asia, through which we long that others will share this commitment to Christ and his kingdom and to reaching even the most unreachable in our tottering world.

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