

Col - (3) Question & Answer

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of discipleship, recognizing the voice of the Holy Spirit, and discerning the voice of God in order to have a heart that desires to glorify God's name.

Duration: 17:00

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Luke 14:26, Luke 14:33-34

Topics: "Question Answer"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the topic of marriage ceremonies and the financial burden they can place on families. He mentions that in the Old Testament, there are references to giving offerings to the Lord, but in the New Testament, there is no specific guidance on this matter. The speaker shares his personal experiences of witnessing poverty and the impact it has on children. He emphasizes the importance of preaching truth and not judging others based on their choices. The sermon also touches on the concept of heaven and the speaker's belief in it based on scripture.

Transcript

How do we get a heart whose greatest desire is to glorify his name? We have to be disciples. That's number one. And the three conditions of discipleship are mentioned in Luke 14, verse 25, sorry, verse 26, 27 and 33.

If you can remember that, it's just in that section, Luke 14, 26 to 33, the three conditions of discipleship, at the end of which he said, that's how you're going to be the salt of the earth. So, 26 is, in a nutshell, you've got to love Jesus more than your father, this is carefully, number one condition of discipleship, you've got to love Jesus more than your father, more than your mother, more than your wife, more than your children, more than your brothers and sisters, blood brothers and sisters, and spiritual brothers and sisters. You've got to love Jesus more than every human being on the earth.

Nobody must mean more to you than Jesus Christ. In other words, you're not going to do something to please your wife, like Adam, and displease the Lord. You'll have to say, sorry honey, I can't do that.

I'm not going to, you know, like Adam. How many of you have met that? Love Jesus more than they love their wives, husbands, fathers, anyone. They're willing to say to their closest, go work or get the heavenly saving.

I don't agree with you. Love Jesus supremely. They love Jesus more than themselves.

To take up a cross means to die to myself, my will, my choices, my pleasure. I love Jesus more than my personal preferences and choices. And third, for a third of you, I love Jesus more than all my possessions.

Car, house, money, bank account, business, whatever it is. Jesus is supreme. So basically, it's loving Jesus with all our heart.

More than all human beings, more than ourselves, and more than all we possess. And to say to him, Lord, there's nothing on earth I desire beside you. Now when you see what Jesus is really like, you'll find it very easy to say that.

And that's, to me, that is the mark of a worshipper. Most Christians don't know what worship is. What they call praise and worship is just making a lot of noise on Sunday morning.

That's not praise and worship. That may be praise and thanksgiving, but it's not worship. Worship is mostly done in secret.

It's mostly done in silence. It's mostly done with our head down on the floor before God. And saying, Lord Jesus, I desire nothing on earth but you.

That's a worshipper. And if you live in that place of worship, you'll be a worshipper. I'll tell you something.

The Father in heaven seeks for those who will worship him and serve him. That's how we have a desire. Now, you see, God doesn't force us.

You make a choice. If you want to love something else more than Jesus, fine. But you're never going to have heart to glorify his name.

Okay, another question. How do I recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit? How can I distinguish it from other voices? Well, I'll tell you a few ways. Any voice that condemns you.

You're good for nothing. That's not the voice. He never speaks like that.

God never says you're good for nothing. Because it's not true. That's the voice of the devil.

Not even in front of me. You know, some mothers talk like that to their children. That's because they don't know God.

God never says that. When we do something wrong, the voice is just dead. You've done it again.

I told you. The earthly father to the mother. That's the devil.

What about the voice of the Holy Spirit? How do you condemn it? Say, my son, you shouldn't have said that. That's a sin. Get your hands away.

Let's move forward. That's the voice of the Holy Spirit. Always with hope.

You know, I am so encouraged. There are a lot of people who hear me preach. And I wish they would get more of my spirit than just my sermons.

Some people listen to my sermons and get appointed to my sermons. But I remember something that somebody told me that was so embarrassing. He said, Brother Zach, I hear so-and-so brother preach exactly the same things you preach.

But when I hear him, I get discouraged. But when I hear you, I get encouraged. I say, Lord, please help me to be like that always.

You can preach, and I learned something today from that testimony from that person. You can preach the same thing and encourage somebody or discourage somebody. It's a question of what spirit you have.

You know, you can preach truth with a legalistic spirit or the spirit of the devil. Or you can preach truth with the spirit of God and the Holy Spirit. So the voice that condemns you makes you discouraged because you never heard from God.

The voice that tells you no matter how much you've fallen, no matter if you've hit rock bottom, there's hope for you. You can come from there as long as you can lift God up. So don't ever listen to the voice that condemns you that God cannot send His Son into the world to condemn the world.

I say this because I thought in my young days that nobody would guide me. I wish I had a spiritual father to guide me. I didn't have.

I have struggled for years to find these suits from Scripture which I'm ashamed to deny. I struggled because I used to be so condemned and discouraged when I confessed some sin. And that would make me fall even more.

I didn't realize that the voice of the devil. I'd sit in a meeting and I'd hear preachers and the message I got at the end of the meeting was you're not good enough. Yes Lord, I'm not good enough.

He says that's the voice of the devil. Imagine telling your children you're not good enough. That would destroy them.

The Lord never speaks like that to anyone in the community hearing that voice. Even if you're a rock climber he won't tell you that either. So that's one of the most clearest instances of sin is the voice of the devil or the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Or sometimes it's the voice of my own self which makes me feel that I'm supposed to sit in a meeting and go away feeling I'm not good enough. That's not the way you're supposed to go away from a meeting. The way you're supposed to go away from a meeting is there's hope even for me.

Even though I'm the worst person sitting in that hall today there's hope for me. Then you've got the message from God. So never listen to the voice of condemnation.

Anything that discourages you. Discouragement and no condemnation are no entry roads. And if you obey those private signs here obey this also.

No entry roads. You can come out from there but you can't go in. Discouragement is not a condemnation.

The other thing is a voice that tells you do it immediately. Don't wait. Do it immediately.

Don't think about it. It's usually the devil. God doesn't know.

It's the devil's word. You think that's God. I've got to obey immediately.

Now if you're absolutely sure that it is God after carefully weighing and considering and praying and marriage scripture and selling God to people you're sure God's told you to do it. Then I agree I'm supposed to do it immediately. But if not some thought came in your mind and you said I've got to leave my job and I've got to go off to Tibet or something like that.

You think that's God. It's not God. By all means if you can't wait think about it.

And sell God to people. And sell scripture. Wait on the Lord.

Those who wait on the Lord. So remember that. These are some guidelines by which you can know how the nation tell you that they are not good enough.

The Holy Spirit's voice is always very gentle. Very nice. He doesn't catch us by the neck.

Jesus said I'm the good shepherd. I go in front. He leads us.

He doesn't follow me. He doesn't take a whip and whip us and say come on. And I see also the voice of Jesus is like that.

I stand at the door and knock on any anything that forces you to do something. Any creature who touches you you've got to do this. Not Jesus.

He stands He's a gentleman. He stands at the door and knocks. He waits for you.

If you take two years to open that door He waits. How many years He waited outside the door of my heart just to How many more years He waited outside the door of other rooms in my heart till I slowly kneeled and kneeled. He never forced his way in.

He forced you. He must do your rites. He must do this.

He stands at the door and knocks because God loves his cheerful giver. The voice of the Holy Spirit always leads you to the cheerful giver. It's a love relationship.

Not a master-slave relationship but at least in some ways you know. Okay Do you have any proof about heaven or hell? Which was third when I read about it in scripture and I know what it's like. And personally I tell you I don't believe Okay What is the next apocalyptic event that is going to happen? I personally believe it will be the tribulation and the revelation of the Antichrist and seven years of tribulation of the church to go through at the end of which the rapture the sound of the trumpet and our Lord coming from heaven and sending his angels to gather the elect from the earth and lead to the Lord and to heaven If you get time read Matthew 24 and compare it with 1 Thessalonians 4 and you'll find that what it says in Matthew 24 is exactly like it says in 1 Thessalonians 4 the sound of the trumpet the angels the Lord coming in the clouds those are mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4 but the time is not mentioned and the time is mentioned in Matthew 24 verse 29 immediately after the rapture the rapture before the tribulation even though 95% of Christians believe that some of you believe it I'm sorry this one here it is not true don't be deceived read 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 that day will not come until the man who sinned be forgiven ok our time is up let's have a word of prayer oh sorry I didn't see you do you need to be baptized in the holy spirit to go to heaven no do you need to be baptized in the holy spirit to be an effective witness for Jesus on earth yes so it's a question of what is your attitude what is the minimum I have to do to please my Lord

what is the maximum I can do for my Lord who gave everything for me is family planning and sinning the act of God sure quite an attempt to have as much sin as one can you know in the old testament there are verses that in the psalms especially most of the manuscripts were full of verses in the new testament interestingly there is not a single verse that says this way or that way on this subject I come from India where I have been in poor villages and seen some of the poorest people on earth and I have seen children who

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