

(The Real Jesus) 1 Jesus Did Not Seek His Own

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of presenting the real Jesus, rather than a counterfeit one, and living a life that reflects His character.

Duration: 1:01:05

Scripture: Psalm 119:105, Matthew 6:33, John 1:4

Topics: "Jesus Mission", "Discipleship"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the responsibility of Christians to go out into the world, just as Jesus was sent by the Father. The speaker refers to the words of Jesus after his resurrection, where he tells his disciples that they are being sent out into the world. The speaker then discusses the importance of understanding why the Father sent Jesus, pointing to a verse in John's Gospel that highlights the purpose of Jesus' mission. The speaker also warns against following false teachings and emphasizes the need for a genuine transformation in the lives of believers.

Transcript

is going to be the real Jesus. And it's unfortunate that we have to speak about that because God never intended that there should ever be any other Jesus presented to this world than the real one. Everything valuable has been counterfeited.

People don't counterfeit things that are not valuable. Even in the time of the apostles, we read of Jesus being counterfeited. So, I want to turn, first of all, to 2nd Corinthians, chapter 11.

So, you'll see this is not a problem that is a problem of the 21st century. It was there right from the beginning. The devil is a deceiver.

The Bible says he's a deceiver of the whole world. And one way in which he deceives people, particularly Christians, is by presenting a Jesus which is not the Jesus that you read in the Bible. Turn to 2nd Corinthians 11, verse 3. Now, these were believers.

Remember, in Corinth, Paul is writing to born-again believers in the church in Corinth and telling them, he says, I'm afraid. I am afraid that you believers will be deceived by the devil. Just like the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, by his cleverness.

The Bible says that there's no one among all created beings cleverer than Satan. Read that in Ezekiel 28, where God says about Satan, you are wiser than Daniel. Now, God didn't consider Solomon to be the wisest man on earth, just like other people do.

His wisdom was earthly. Daniel was the one whom God considered the wisest person and he looked at the devil and said, you're wiser than Daniel. So, among all created beings, he's the cleverest, he's the smartest, the shrewdest and he fell away.

And if any of us think that we can fool the devil, it's not true. He's cleverer than all of us and he studied human nature for 6,000 years. He studied Christians for 2,000 years and he knows exactly how to fool any Christian today.

And anyone who thinks he's smarter than the devil, is just fooling himself. Now, why has God made it like that? Why has God allowed Satan to be cleverer than even Daniel, who was one of the finest men in the Old Testament, cleverer than you and me? And the answer to that lies in the answer to this question that we see in the Old Testament. Why did God allow the enemies of Israel always to be stronger than them? Israel was always a small, weak nation, just like today.

And throughout the Old Testament, you see massive enemies, hundreds of thousands of people coming against Israel and Pharaoh's army coming against Israel. And here was Israel, a helpless group of people. The reason was so that Israel would never, never depend on their own ability.

If Israel was a huge, mighty nation with millions of people, soldiers and others were weak, they wouldn't need God. They could handle the problem themselves. And that's why God has always made His people weak so that they would depend on Him.

God has made you and me not as sharp as Satan so that we don't depend on our own cleverness. And do you know who are the ones who go astray in Christianity? Those who depend on their own cleverness. So Paul says, I'm afraid.

You know, when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he says, you guys are all so clever. Corinth was a place where a lot of clever Christians were in the church and that's why they were so carnal. And he says, I'm afraid of you clever people that the serpent will deceive you by his craftiness and he will lead your minds astray from the simplicity that there is in Jesus.

That's what he's afraid of. There is a simplicity about the real Jesus. He's not complicated.

And he says, I'm afraid that you with all your cleverness you'll get all these ideas and be led astray from that simplicity and purity that there is in Christ. Whenever your Christianity, please listen to this, the two words here, simplicity and purity. Whenever your Christianity has got away from simplicity and purity, you can be sure the devil's got the better of you.

I don't care what else you do. I don't care how much evangelism you do. I don't care how much even praise and worship you do.

Where you've gone away from simplicity and purity in your life, the devil succeeded. And how does he do it? It says here, Paul says to the Corinthians, if someone comes to you, verse 4, and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached. So this was happening in the first century too.

The name was the same, but it wasn't the same person. Is it possible that a lot of Christians today are believing in another Jesus? And maybe that's why their lives are so powerless. Because, I'll tell you why.

Because Jesus said, he who believes in me, these are some of the things that are going to take place in his life. And why is it there are so many people who say they are believing in him, and nothing seems to be happening in their life? Their life is so worldly, so defeated, just like any other person in the world. It must be that they are not believing in the real Jesus.

I can't think of any other reason. Or is it that Jesus broke his promises? Or he's changed his mind? He hasn't changed his mind. He's the same yesterday, today and forever.

If someone comes and preaches another Jesus, it says in the last part of that verse, you bear it beautifully. You accept it. Now why do people want another Jesus, and not the real Jesus? If we can understand that, we won't be deceived.

Now I'll tell you. It's because the world, even the Christian world, wants a Jesus who will allow you to live the way you want to live. And continue seeking your own, and go to heaven when you die.

A Jesus, who will make you rich and healthy, like all the other people in the world, but won't tell you to die to yourself. And that's what everybody wants. He says, you bear it beautifully.

And there's a lot of that going on today, in the world, in Christian television, in a lot of public crusades. I think there are a lot of sincere people going to all these meetings, watching all these television programs. But their lives are not being changed.

They're not coming into a life described in the New Testament of overcoming, overcoming sin. They're not coming into the type of family life described in the New Testament. Many of these people, even the people who stand up in the pulpit, are divorced numerous times.

It's another Jesus. It's another Jesus, who's not much bothered whether you maintain God's holy standards or not. So long as you get large crowds in.

The real Jesus in Scripture was never interested in crowds. Did you know that? You know, when one of the largest crowds followed Him once, He turned around and said to them, you can never follow Me if you don't hate your father, mother, brother, sister, and your own life, and wife and children, and take up your cross every day and follow Me, and forsake all your possessions. He said, don't waste your time following Me.

Where in the world do you find a preacher who preaches like that to a large crowd today? It's another Jesus. It's another Jesus. Today's preachers, when they look at this great crowd, say, it's wonderful you fellows have all come, go and bring your friends next time.

And it's a type of message that makes them happy, live just like everybody else in the world, and imagine that they're disciples of Jesus. It is another Jesus. So, what is our responsibility? I think of the words of Jesus when He was with His disciples after His resurrection.

And He said to them, As the Father sent Me, so send I You. Do you remember those words? As the Father sent Me, so send I You. Now I want every one of you, if you're a serious Christian, I want to tell you something.

Those words are what Jesus is speaking to you. As the Father sent Jesus, I want to say to you in Jesus' name, Jesus is sending you out into the world. Okay.

Now let us see what did the Father send Jesus into the world for? Now it's very important, before I come to that, just finish this verse, 2 Corinthians 11 verse 4. What happens when this other Jesus is preached? You see, He's talking about preaching here. And therefore, that verse primarily refers to preachers. And preachers are not just those who stand in pulpits.

You may be preaching at home. You may be witnessing to people. And when you preach another Jesus, the end result, one of the results that comes from preaching another Jesus is that you receive another spirit.

Not the Holy Spirit. Some other spirit gets into you. And that also I have seen.

When people listen to these preachers who are preaching another Jesus, who's come to make you wealthy and healthy and bless you with all material blessings and that's about the only thing He does for you and doesn't give you any victory over your anger and your bitterness and your grumpiness and your depression and your gloom and excuses all that just makes you healthy and wealthy and prospers your business and is not interested in your reaching out to needy places to bring people to Christ. What happens is when people, because they like to listen to this type of Jesus who makes no demands upon them. And they open themselves up to this type of preaching.

You know what happens? They receive a different spirit. And that also I've seen. It's another spirit.

It can duplicate many of the gifts of the spirit but it's another spirit. And then they open themselves to another gospel. A completely different gospel from the gospel found in the scriptures.

So all that flows from listening to the preaching of another Jesus. So that's why it's important for us. So what's our responsibility? As the Father sent Jesus you and I have been sent into the world.

Now what did the Father send Jesus for? I want to show you a verse in John's Gospel chapter 1. Turn with me to John's Gospel chapter 1 and see what the Father sent Jesus for. It says here in John 1 and verse 18. Now it's important for us to understand this because it relates to that other verse.

As the Father sent me so send I you. So to try and understand what did the Father send Jesus for? Now a lot of people will say he was sent to die for the sins of the world. That was one small part of it.

But notice what it says here. No one has seen God at any time. John 1 verse 18.

John 1.18 No one has seen God at any time. But the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, he has explained Him. The world was full of people who had never seen God and all the great religious leaders that came before Christ and subsequently also have tried to explain a God whom they never saw.

I mean it's like trying to draw a picture of an animal you've never seen in a zoo or a photograph of. You try and draw it and ten different people draw ten different pictures. And that's why you have so many religions.

People are talking about a God whom they've never seen. Whom they know nothing about. But there was one person and that was Jesus because he came from heaven being the second person of the Trinity.

He came to show the world what God was like. That was the primary reason why he came. And his death on Calvary was also part of that.

To show that God loved the world so much that He was willing to give His Son to save you from your sin. So Jesus we can say primarily came to earth because no one on earth had seen God and God loved the earth so much people on the earth so much that He sent His Son to show these people what I'm really like. And there was another reason for that because there were a whole bunch of religious people in those days just like religious people today called the Pharisees.

And they were also people who had not seen God. But they were every Saturday in their meeting hall they were explaining to people what God was like. And they hadn't seen God.

And they told them that God was like this and like this and drew a picture of God before their congregation where God was so strict about certain rules and regulations and only if you did that and if you did it like this and you did it like this then only God would be happy with you. And those poor simple people were sitting there listening to these preachers Saturday after Saturday and paying their tithes and they preached to them, God will be very angry with you if you don't pay your tithes. And God will be very angry if you do this and do that and all things.

And these poor people were slaves. They had the picture of a God who was like a policeman who was or a judge who was out to catch them for every little thing. And God sent His Son to show them what He really was like.

And He came to earth. And who do you think His biggest clash was with? We never read that He clashed with the Romans or the Greeks or the murderers of the world or the gamblers or the adulterers or the thieves. His clash was with these religious leaders who were presenting another picture of God to the people.

And I want to say to you my dear brothers and sisters if you take upon yourself the ministry that God is giving you and me to go into the world as the Father sent Jesus our calling is exactly the same. When Jesus came to earth there was another God being presented. People of course they were preaching from the Bible.

Now I know there were other religions in India and other places those days where they were preaching other gods. I'm not talking about them. They were false.

They were not so dangerous because they were not talking about the true God at all. But in the Jewish synagogue they were holding the Bible. They had the Bible from Genesis to Malachi and they read it and read it and they presented another God that was more dangerous.

And today Christians are not going to be deceived by listening to all those false religions. It's when a man gets up with the Bible and preaches from the Bible and presents, you know he picks out certain favorite verses and unfortunately one of the great tragedies today is today's Christians don't know the Bible properly. They don't read the Bible enough.

They read so many other things. They watch so many other things. But they don't know the Bible enough and so all these preachers have a heyday fooling all these people who don't know the Bible.

They pick out certain verses and say, don't you see it says here, it says here like this and convince people that this is what God is like. And it's exactly the same today as it was in Jesus' time. And Jesus came to show that that's not what God was like.

And can you imagine the anger of these preachers? Because this young man came up and said God's not like that. This is what God is like. That's why they killed him.

So I want to say that if the Father sends you and me into the world just like, if Jesus sends you and me into the world just like the Father sent Jesus our calling is going to be the same. I'm not supposed to sit back and say well I just take care of my family and bring up all my children in a godly way and that's it and finally we'll all go to heaven. That's the most selfish way you can live.

Do you think people in the world don't think of their own families? That's all they think about morning, noon and night. And what do you think about a Christian who all he does is sits and thinks about his own family going to heaven when he dies? What about the rest of the world? We're supposed to be witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth. We're supposed to stand up and expose the real Jesus and show that all this other counterfeit Jesus is not the real one.

That's our calling. As the Father sent me so send I you. Because like it says here no one has seen God at any time.

I would say lots and lots of Christians today have not seen the real Jesus. And we it's a fantastic calling. I mean I'm amazed that God would give us such a calling to show what Jesus is like and it doesn't have to be in the pulpit.

I mean just think for a moment. You know the Bible says in the same gospel let me read you this verse. John 1 4 John chapter 1 verse 4 In him was life and the life was the light of men.

You know this is the big difference between the New Testament and the Old Testament. In the Old Testament it was the word which was the light of men. You read that in Psalm 119 verse 105.

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. That's the only light they had. And they'd get up and preach the word and say that's the light.

Listen to it. But then Jesus came because nobody had that light in the Old Testament. But Jesus came and said here is the real light.

It was his light. There was a light he lived. Do you think people saw God only when Jesus got up in the pulpit? Oh no! They saw God when Jesus lived in Nazareth at home as a 20 year old young man.

They saw God when Jesus worked in the carpenter shop. I mean you didn't have to wait till he was 30 years old if you went into his carpenter shop and dealt with this young carpenter of Nazareth. 25 year old young carpenter of Nazareth.

You'd have seen God. You'd have seen something in his life which you'd have never seen in any religious person anywhere in Israel. So he was manifesting God all the time.

But 33 years it was his life which was the light. Don't ever forget that. And if that's the way that Jesus is sending us to the world like the Father sent him you may never stand in the pulpit all your life.

90% of Jesus' life, 30 out of 33 years he never stood in the pulpit. It was his life which was the light of men. And that means his life at home with his mother Mary and his four brothers and sisters at home and in the carpenter shop and the different people who came and his customers.

He was a carpenter earning his living by making stools and benches and tables and things like that and people came and ordered things and the way he dealt with them and the way he collected their money and the type of material he the type of furniture he made for them and he was manifesting a certain life in all those things. Just as much as when he stood in the pulpit. And that's where all of us have hope because most of us may never stand in a pulpit.

But that's not the light. The light is the light. So just look at it like this for a moment.

What does this mean in practical terms? Supposing instead of you supposing one day the Lord came to you, Jesus himself and said okay, instead of you going to work today I'm going to work in your place. I will go as you. I'll take your name and work in the office as you.

And let's assume that he can miraculously put on your face and now remember it's Jesus going with your face and with your name and working in your office. Do you think people would sit up and say hey what happened to this person? He's so different now. Would they say that? That is the challenge that comes to us.

Supposing one day Jesus said okay I'm going to go back from work in your place and your wife's not going to see you today she's going to see me. But you won't know it's me. You'll think it's still you.

I'm going to take on your face and would your wife say boy, what's happened to my husband? He's come home a different man. Would there be a difference? Ask yourself. Or would your wife say that's my husband.

Would people at work say that's the same person. That's a very challenging thing. That is the test.

Please take it seriously. In your home, in your work, you may be a wife. Supposing Jesus says no, okay I'm going to replace you today as a mother and as a wife.

Would people in your home see a difference? Would your children see a difference? Would they say hey how come mommy's like this today? And there I want to say my brothers and sisters we see how unlike Jesus we have conducted ourselves in our home to our husband wife, children in our place of work. We're religious. We've got all the trappings of our particular religious denomination and you know how various people through the years had various emphases and if you're a Christian you'll do this, you'll carry a Bible, you'll speak in tongues, you'll grow a beard or you'll dress like this or you won't dress like this.

What all things the world has heard about do you think a Christian is seen in the way he dresses? Some people say oh you've got to dress shabbily then you're like Jesus. Some people say no you've got to dress as a suit and tie then you're like Jesus. I want to tell you it's got nothing to do with these things.

It's a life throughout Christian history. The devil has always tried to shift that emphasis from the life of Jesus onto something else. It doesn't matter what it is.

Something other than the life, dress in a certain way or your appearance must be this way or must sing in this way or some religious activity anything other than life because the devil knows if you discover that it's

the life that is the life, boy his kingdom will be shaken because his kingdom is the kingdom of darkness and you can't shake that kingdom of darkness with a particular type of dress or with a particular type of religious activity or whether you grow a beard or not or whether you behave like this or not externally I mean or with any type of religious activity or the way you have your meetings. It's got nothing to do with these things. It's got to do with the life which is the light of men.

That light can shake his kingdom and that's why the devil's always got Christians concentrating on anything other than the life of Jesus and if you don't believe me examine your own life haven't you found yourself drawn to certain people because they dress like you. Their meetings are like the way you like it. What's it got to do with meetings? It's got nothing to do with meetings.

It's got to do with the life. The life of Jesus and do you see how the devil succeeded with so many of us by shifting the emphasis from life onto something else it doesn't matter what it is and then we have all these Christians with their hundred or thousand different emphases all different from the life of Jesus and all criticizing each other because these fellows are not doing this and these fellows are not doing that in him was life and the life was the light of men and there was something about that life which was different from any other life that was seen on the face of the earth. What was the difference? It was not that he carried a bible and went to a meeting it was not that Jesus dressed in a particular way.

I think Jesus looked just like all the other people of his time dressed like them and his appearance was like them and that's why you know the chief priests and all were not able to identify him in the garden of Gethsemane. They'd seen him so many times in the temple why did they need Judas to identify? Do you need somebody to identify a man whom you've seen for three and a half years preaching in the temple and regularly regularly I mean you've seen me much less than that. You'd identify me anywhere.

Why do you need some close friend of mine and say point out who Zach is to me Why did they need somebody to point out Jesus because he looked so much like the other people. He was not special and in the darkness they thought they'd miss him for Peter or somebody else. They wanted to get the right man which proves to me that in Gethsemane that proves to me that he was just like everybody else.

It was not in his dress or in a particular way he walked or anything. It was a life that was different and I want to say to you my brothers and sisters the one thing that should distinguish us from people in the world is our life. It's not anything else.

It's our life and we see here the main characteristic of the life of Jesus. I want to turn you to John's Gospel chapter 17 which he said at the end of his life. He himself said these words to the father.

I want you to see these words. John's Gospel chapter 17. He said father the hour has come.

Glorify thy son. The son also may glorify thee. And he says in verse 4. I have glorified thee on the earth.

I have accomplished the work which you have given me to do. There was only one thing Jesus came one goal or ambition he had and that was to glorify the father. In everything he did before he did it he'd say will this glorify the father? And let the Holy Spirit witness to him and if he felt it would glorify the father he'd do it.

That's why he prayed so often. And that's why we don't pray so often. That's why we don't ask the Lord so often.

I don't mean kneeling down and going through the ritual of prayer. I've seen a lot of people who go through hours of religious ritual of prayer who are some of the most carnal and nasty and hard to get along people I've met on the face of the earth. Very religious.

Very prayerful. Just like the Pharisees. But it's a ritual.

For Jesus prayer was talking to the father. Will this glorify you father? If it doesn't I don't want to do it. I don't want to do anything that is going to not honor you.

It's not in your will. It won't glorify you. That's how he lived for 33 years.

He never sought his own. He always sought what will glorify the father? Will that glorify the father? That was the principle of his life. And that's how he finished the work.

I've glorified you on earth and I've finished the work you gave me to do. Everything he did on earth. I mean if his mother sent him to fetch a bucket of water from the well.

You know they didn't have running water in their houses those days. Go to the village well and get a bucket of water Jesus. And little 12 year old Jesus would run off to the well and he'd get a full bucket of water.

Not a half a bucket. Because that wouldn't glorify the father. Little things like this.

That you know you'd say what's so great about whether you bring a half bucket of water or a full bucket of water? It's in the little things that you see a godly man. The little things. The little faithfulness.

Faithfulness with money. As a carpenter. He was faithful.

He wouldn't overcharge people and take advantage of poor people. It's in little things. In everything.

What will glorify the father here? In every area of his life. That's why he needed to pray. We don't pray because we think, yeah we know.

I've glorified you on earth and I've finished the work you gave me to do. And I want to show you, before I move on from this passage, the previous verse. It's the finest definition of eternal life that I've found anywhere in the Bible.

You want to know what eternal life is? A lot of people say eternal life means I mean if you were to ask the average Christian, I'd say 99% of those Christians will not give this answer. I mean, before I showed you this verse if I were to ask you, what is eternal life? What would your answer be today? Many of you have been saved for many years. What would your answer be? You'd probably say eternal life means I'm going to live forever in heaven.

That's not how Jesus defined it. If there was one person who could define eternal life, and if you have this, you've got eternal life. If you don't have this, you don't have eternal life.

Listen to it. John 17 verse 3. This is Jesus' definition of eternal life. And that's why we need to know the real Jesus because there's another Jesus preaching another type of eternal life.

This is eternal life, Jesus said that they may know thee. To know what God is like. And to know Jesus Christ who was sent by the Father.

The more I know Jesus Christ that is eternal life. To know God and to know Jesus Christ. Not to know about God or to know about Jesus Christ.

You may know about somebody but you don't know that person. But the way you know your husband. The way you know your wife.

If you've been married 30, 40 years you really know one another. Jesus said to know him like that that is eternal life. And the reason why there's so much worldliness among Christians is because they don't know Jesus.

The reason why there's so much of legalism and religious rules and regulations is because they don't know Jesus. And the reason why they don't know Jesus is because the preachers they're listening to are not telling them about Jesus. They're telling about all these rules and regulations.

They're telling about psychological techniques to become rich and how we can get things from God and teaching a wrong type of faith than the faith spoken of in the Bible. That's why you see such a powerless Christianity today. Let me show you another verse.

Philippians in chapter 2. Now this is another very, very important verse. In Philippians chapter 2 we read. See I want to give you a little bit of the history of this passage.

It's written right there. Paul was in jail. In prison.

And Paul was a man who had a great burden for the churches he planted. Just like a mother would have a concern for her children. How are they getting on? I mean children are far away.

She'd want to know how are they getting on. She'd want to telephone them. She'd want to get a letter from them or want them to call.

Here was prison. Paul was in prison and there was no way of finding out how is this little church in Philippi getting on which I planted some years ago. And he said I'm going to send somebody to find out.

I've got a number of co-workers here with me and I want to send one of them because I can't go. They've locked me up in prison. I want to send one of them to go to Philippi to stir them up and to find out how things are going on there.

And he looks around at his co-workers and he can't find anyone except Timothy. Is it because he had only one co-worker? He had a number of co-workers. And I want to tell you Paul's co-workers had a pretty high standard.

If you read in Acts of the Apostles chapter 13 and 15 you'll read there how Paul said we'll never take that fellow John Mark again on our team. I know he's a fine brother, he's born again filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues and all that, but we're not going to have him on our team anymore because that guy's a half-hearted fellow pulled out of work just because things got a little tough. You know, if Paul selected you for his team, that itself is a great honor.

But as people continue you know a lot of people when they first come to Christ they're so excited. I've seen a lot of people, a lot of young people when they first come to Christ, they're so zealous. They're full of zeal and excitement and dedication and sacrifice and everything and then you see them 10 years later, 15 years later not at all like that.

All the zeal is gone, the fire is gone. It's great when I see young people on fire for the Lord and I say well, I hope the fire will be more 10 years from now 15, 20 years from now. And people continue, why do I say that? Because I see a lot of people whom Paul called young, zealous people years later.

You know what happened to them? They were all seeking their own except Timothy. That man endured. One man among all Paul's co-workers.

I think all of them started out seeking God's glory otherwise Paul wouldn't have got them on his team but after a while one by one they began to seek their own. And so when Paul wanted to send somebody to Philippi, he looks around and he says he ticks them off in his mind one by one should I send him? No, he's seeking his own. Then what about this guy? He's a good chap, he knows the Bible but he's seeking his own too.

What about this person? Yeah, he was fine, I remember what a zealous young fellow he was when he first came on to our team but now he's seeking his own. But Timothy ah, that's the chap he's steadily gone on and on and on and on You know I want to say to you my brothers and sisters it's wonderful to be zealous when you're first converted. I hope it'll continue to greater heights of glory as you continue because I want to tell you something 90% or more of Christians do not go that way.

There are probably a lot of people sitting here who when you were first converted you had such a passion you were zealous, you wanted to live for God but where are you today? Lots and lots of people I've seen in India I don't know all of you but I've seen folks in India almost all of them backslide when they get married they're zealous before they get married they get married and they have one or two children so when I say when I see a zealous young person I say praise God brother but I'm not going to give a final verdict on you yet I'll wait till you have one or two children then let me see what you're like that's what happened to these these people and Paul said but Timothy is different and what was different about Timothy?

It says here in verse 21 Philippians 2 verse 21, let me read from verse 19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly so that I may be encouraged when I learn of your condition because I have no one else of the same spirit I don't have anyone else whom I can send who's got the same spirit who will genuinely be concerned about your welfare because they all seek after their own interests and not those of Christ Jesus when Jesus came to earth he did not seek his own we can say there are two trees the tree of Adam and the tree of Christ everyone we're all born into the seed of Adam we can say we were branches on that tree and we received the life of that tree and you know what the life of Adam is which we have all received from our parents it's a life that is primarily interested

in seeking our own if I do this how will it benefit me if I go and live in such and such a place how will it benefit me how will it benefit my family how will it benefit my children of course I also want to be religious I also want to be filled with the Holy Spirit I also want to speak in tongues I want to praise the Lord I want to be in a good church I want to give a little money for missionary work I want to do some type of activity all that is ok, I mean we'll do all that but basically my fundamental decisions in life are determined by how will this benefit me how will this benefit my family the entire race of Adam is like that that's how every businessman lives in the world how does every businessman live how will this benefit me how will this benefit my family of course, if my going

to church and attending meetings will bring me in touch with other businessmen and other influential people I'll do that I meet a lot of businessmen who go to church but their fundamental aim in life is not

glorifying God, or politicians they're politicians what's every politician thinking of how will this benefit me and when you have a race for the president's seat what are they seeking how will this benefit me how will this benefit my family what about a lot of people who are seeking to be a pastor in some church what are they thinking of how will this benefit me if I become pastor of this church it's the same story in 2000 years this is the tree of Adam and Jesus is another tree to be in Adam, the Bible speaks about being in Adam and in Christ now let's look at this tree called Jesus

Jesus came to earth to live by a completely different principle from the life of Adam Jesus principle was how will this glorify the father if I go and live here, will that glorify the father, if I do this, will it glorify the father if I spend my money like this, will it glorify the father, if I live like this, if I spend my days like this if I spend my hours like this, will it glorify the father, that's the principle by which he lived he wasn't just interested in going to meetings and just doing a few religious activities to ease his conscience and live for himself that's religion now when a person lives like that and is a worldly unconverted person, that's ok because that's how all children of Adam are supposed to live but when a person calls himself a Christian a disciple of Jesus and

lives by that principle that's what the Bible calls Babylon that is Babylon, do you think Babylon is just some particular denomination do you think by coming out of some denomination you come out of Babylon do you think you get rid of certain habits in your life and then you got rid of Babylon, I wish it were so easy do you think if you change the way you dress you got rid of Babylon, oh I wish it were so easy, it isn't Babylon goes far deeper than all that, do you think if you change the style of your meeting we got rid of all that Babylon, we are now in Jerusalem is it a style of meeting is it a style of dress is it a particular subject that you preach on no, it's much more deep rooted than that it's a question of whether we've been taken out of that spirit that is in the race of Adam

and we have partaken of the spirit that was in Jesus Christ where he said, Father I've glorified you on earth you know we read of a time when the disciples heard Jesus pray wonderful it says in Luke chapter 11 he was obviously praying out aloud with his disciples around him, just like we would pray aloud when we are with some fellow disciples and these disciples remember had grown up in the synagogue listening to all the religious prayers the Pharisees prayed and here we read in verse 1 Luke 11 1 that they heard Jesus pray and they'd never heard anything like this in their life and they said Lord, teach us to pray, verse 1 Lord, this is real prayer this is communing with God this is not some ritual this is not something to ease our conscience looking at our watch, ok I've spent 3 hours

that's alright now, I can get up this is not like that, I mean we've seen enough of that Lord in the synagogue this is real we've never heard in our life anything any prayer like this, what we heard just now maybe it was only 5 minutes, but it was real and they said Lord, can you teach us to pray like this and Jesus said sure this is how you must pray the most important thing when you pray is that you must be concerned about the Father's name and His glory and not your own see what He told them, when you pray say Our Father hallowed be Thy name Thy kingdom come if that is not your fundamental desire in life your prayer will be just another religious ritual it may be fervent and loud and screaming and zealous, there may be tears actors can do that God's not impressed I want to ask you my

brothers and sisters I don't speak as someone who's preaching to you God is my witness that every day of my life I live in a judgment of myself I stopped judging other people long ago I did do that foolishly for many years and made a mess of my life, but I finished with all that, I don't judge any of you, it's not my business I've got enough to do judging myself I live before God and I say Lord, am I seeking your glory or

am I seeking my own here I want to tell you honestly many many times the Lord has shown me there you were seeking your own even today and I believe as I see it I can repent I can turn from it and a little more fulfill the purpose with which Jesus placed me on this earth I want to encourage you to live like that if you want to live the most worthwhile life you can ever

live in this one short life God gives you on this earth, my brothers and sisters, many years of our life have gone by, some of you who are young, oh you are the luckiest people sitting here why are you the luckiest people sitting here, because you can hear this message when you're young and if you stick to it, imagine what you'll be if the Lord tarries when you're 50 or 60 years old, like me, boy you'd be one of the godliest people on earth if you live like this, I wish somebody had told me this when I was 19, this is what you gotta live for Zach, this is the only thing you must live for I wish somebody had got a hold of me, I was converted when I was 19, and I wish somebody had got a hold of me at that time and said, this is what you must live for and if ever they saw me slipping out I

wish I had a mentor who would hold me and say no that's not the way Zach, don't live for yourself you'll regret it when you get to the end of your life live for God, live for the glory of God I struggled through religious Babylon for many years stumbled, fall, got up, stumbled, fall, stumbled but I thank God I found something and I want at least the closing years of my life to go from one degree of glory to another and that's why I say you young people are the luckiest because you can hear this I'm not saying you live this way I hope you do, but whether you will or not I don't know, I've seen a lot of young people who start off so well, God blesses them and they get so proud, they get so puffed up that God has to push them aside, I hope that'll never happen to anybody sitting here but if

you're determined like young Timothy there's an example there in scripture Timothy was a very young man, probably about 18 years old when Paul picked him up 18 years old and it doesn't say that in scripture but perhaps I think he was a young man around that age and by that time he already had a good testimony in one or two churches around and Paul picked him up and he was so lucky to have a mentor like Paul a man who didn't seek anything for himself and who was straight in rebuking, correcting Timothy and encouraging him and Timothy admired Paul and he took Paul's words seriously follow me as I follow Christ and I think Timothy said I haven't seen Jesus but I've seen Paul and I know a little bit of what Jesus was like just like Jesus said to his disciples you've seen me, you've seen the

Father and I believe that's your calling your children should be able to say well, my dad wasn't perfect but I saw a little bit in him of what Jesus was like a fervent desire to glorify the Father imagine if your children can say that well, my mom wasn't perfect but I saw in her a little bit of what Jesus was like her only passion in life was to glorify God think if you've got younger brothers and they can look up to you you know it's a tremendous responsibility to be an older brother in a family with younger brothers under you or an older sister with younger ones under you they're looking up to you I hope they can see something of Jesus that's the only life worth living for Father what's your number one request?

Hallowed be thy name it's not easy I can say it, I can repeat it and you know like a ritual from tomorrow onwards you can say okay Lord, hallowed be your name and go around the rest of your life seeking your own this is what's happening in Christendom I've seen people please listen to me I've seen people who've heard me preach for 25 years the same truth and they're seeking their own today it doesn't they'll nod their heads in every meeting ah brother Zach, this is it, we got stirred thank you so much for that wonderful message you see them 25 years later they're still seeking their own so I'm not so impressed when people come up to me and say oh brother Zach that was tremendous I'd like to see you 25 years later what is life I

hope you will be gripped by this I want to tell you this I

have shared this in many places in many countries very few very very few take it seriously everybody would prefer the other Jesus who does not make such demands people say oh brother what a strain our life will be what a tremendous strain it'll be if in everything I have to seek whether the Father is going to be glorified in it do you think Jesus' life was such a life full of strain you know people who have a life full of strain get depressed do you think Jesus was depressed far from it he was the happiest person that ever walked on this earth is the devil who tells you your life will get all full of strain and tension if you try to live like this no Jesus said my yoke is easy and my burden is light when you come to the end of your life you'll be a very very happy person because you live

for the same principle the same thing that Jesus lived for Father I have glorified you on earth and when the disciples asked him to teach them to pray he said pray first Father hallowed be your name of course in my life first of all I want your name to be glorified in my life that's the main thing you know how much Jesus taught his disciples don't live before the face of men don't live to impress men don't try to show other people how much you pray don't try to show other people how much you fast don't try to show other people how much you give or what a lot of work you've done what you've done here or what you've done there live before the Father let it all be in secret let it be in secret don't let anybody know what you did let your Father see in secret and he'll reward you openly he

kept on telling that the only important testimony is what your Father thinks about you not what your fellow believers think about you whether they think you're spiritual or they think you're humble it's all fit for the trash can the garbage bin what people think about me they don't know me they see 1% of my life and they try to assess me do you know that all of you know about 1% of my life maybe members of my family know about 2% but the remaining know about 1% even in your own family they know so little because they don't know your thoughts, they don't know your motives they don't know your goals in life and you can have all this religious activity on the outside and look very spiritual I want to say spirituality is determined by what are you living for listen to this the thing you live

for determines whether you're a sinner or a saint what you're living for determines whether you're a spiritual person or a carnal person it's not a question of how zealous you are there are a lot of zealous people who are carnal there are zealous communists there are religious fundamentalists in every denomination who are zealous who are even willing to become suicide bombers for their religion what does it prove? it doesn't prove they're right all these things don't mean anything if your motivation in life is always Lord I will never seek my own I've been taken out of that tree this is the life of Jesus where he never sought his own but sought to glorify the Father I want to tell you something if you take it seriously you may have to take some decisions in your life concerning certain

things it can change your whole lifestyle and people don't want that they want to come for a little conference weekend conference like this just feel nice and go back and live the same old lifestyle without too much adjustment maybe a little bit of maybe a little more prayer at home little extra money given for God's work here or maybe an extra meeting but not too much disturbance to my basic lifestyle I mean if you're like that I say brother God bless you if he can but I don't think much is going to come out of it but if you come to God and say Lord I am willing to pay the price this weekend I don't care what it's going to cost me I'm willing to give up everything I hold precious I want to please you I want to get some understanding this weekend on whether I'm really following you the

real Jesus or an imaginary Jesus that makes me feel comfortable and nice let's pray bow before God more than asking you to make a decision which I'm not going to do I'm not going to ask you to raise your hand or stand up I'm not going to do that in any meeting there's a time for that there's nothing wrong with that but I'd ask you to pray a simple prayer Lord give me light that I might see myself this weekend more clearly than I've ever seen before myself before I don't want to be deceived maybe you're the head of a home you're a husband and that affects your family and your children and you say Lord I know the only worthwhile life I can live on earth is a life that glorifies you where I don't seek my own in anything Lord there is so much of that remnant remnants of that old life of

seeking my own that I discover here and there in life decisions I've not taken some of them seriously I've tried to shut my eyes to them because they make me feel uncomfortable but I want to face up to them Lord and if you'll give me the grace Lord I'll take any decision you want me to take I can't do it I can't do it but if you'll give me the grace I'll take any decision you want me to take but I want my life to count for God I want to follow the real Jesus please help me Lord you think the Lord won't help you he'd be delighted to hear that prayer from any person today old or young God help us heavenly father help me Lord I pray and each one who's seeking you this night make this to be an unforgettable weekend where we really met with you we pray in Jesus name Amen

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