



LIVING FOR JESUS IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T

Lesson #1 - Why is following Jesus important? | Thursday, October 28, 2021

Series Goal

Exploring the WHY, WHAT, HOW, and WHEN of being a follower of Jesus in a culture that's increasingly hostile to the things of God. As Christian men we weren't placed here to fight the world, we're here to show the world what it looks like to be transformed in how we live for Jesus.

This 4-part series will cover the following:

- **WHY** is following Jesus important?
- **WHAT** is following Jesus supposed to look like?
- **HOW** can we live transformed lives?
- **WHEN** does "urgent" start and what can we do about it?

Preamble for Tonight's Lesson

Let's be honest, most of us who call ourselves followers of Jesus probably don't take this as seriously as we should. It's easy for us to make Jesus "part of our lives" as opposed to "all of our lives". The end result is we struggle with sin, feel guilty, don't have power to impact the world, and know in our hearts we're not being all we can be for God.

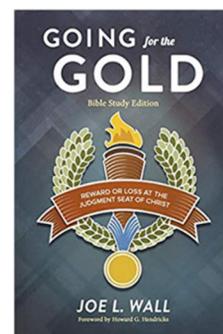
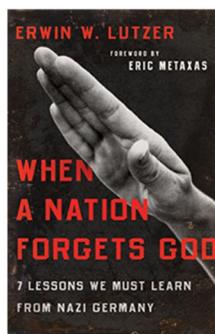
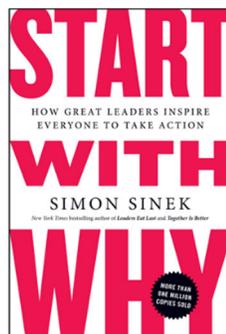
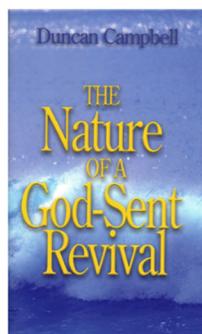
If you've been in church for any length of time, you've probably heard 100 sermons describing how you can "live for Jesus". Here's the problem – until we discover the "WHY", we'll never address the HOW, WHAT, WHERE, or WHEN in following Jesus. In tonight's lesson we're going to discuss "finding your WHY". Once the WHY's defined, everything else will fall into place!

Tonight's Scripture Passages

- Matthew 5:13-16
- Matthew 6:25-34
- John 15:13-16

Questions

1. Why is following Jesus important to you?
2. What happens to the world when Christians DO live for Jesus?
3. What happens to the world when Christians DO NOT live for Jesus?
4. What would have to happen in your life to increase your commitment to Jesus?





Why life for Jesus in a world that really doesn't care?

In some regards it is a matter of finding the right motivation and determining what reasons or causes will impact you and me to change. I'm convinced we spend too much focused on the what and the how and don't explore the why. We do this with our kids, our employees, and even ourselves.

Why should we follow Jesus?

- We are the **ONLY hope** for the world (Matthew 5 (salt & light), *When a Nation Forgets God*)
- We are **called by Jesus** to do His work on earth (John 15, Duncan Campbell)
- There are **rewards** for living a Christ-focused life (2 Corinthians 5:10, *Going for the Gold*)
- As a Christian it is the only way to be truly successful (Matthew 6)
- We each have the unique opportunity to **impact people's** lives

CLOSING STORY: You are the closing story. I want you to envision a conversation between you and Jesus. You're not dead, but you do spend time reviewing what you've done and where you've been. You feel a sense of shame for past sins and regrets but being in the presence of Jesus brings a sense of both forgiveness and purpose. In a way you've never sensed before, you realize God has called you for a purpose. You now understand WHY Jesus has chosen you and what He wants you to do. Your newfound purpose you better understand the critical role you play in advancing God's Kingdom on earth. **Pass out the Believers Challenge cards.**

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^{al}?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

John 15:13-16

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.