



LIVING FOR JESUS IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T

Lesson #4 – When does “urgent” start? | Thursday, November 18, 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

In tonight's lesson I'm going to “push” us a bit. I don't intend to be offensive, but I don't want to sugarcoat things either. **My personal opinion is that for the most part the American church is ineffective.** If you disagree, look around. How many of your neighbors are going to church? What about issues of morality – are we even making a dent in statistics related to teen suicide, teen pregnancy, abortion, divorce, and the general level of unhappiness experienced by most Americans? It's not all our fault, but I think it's at least “partly” our fault. We're not bad people, I just think we don't move with any real sense of urgency to change the world, and it shows. In which of the following camp(s) do you fall? Personally, and regrettably, I fall into several of the following camps.

- I don't really care about others
- I'm too busy to care right now
- I don't feel any sense of urgency
- I'm not sure what to do
- What difference can I make anyway?
- I have a difficult time dealing with “sinners”
- I'm more concerned about being right, than understanding and loving others

Tonight's lesson is about the “WHEN” part of following Jesus and developing a sense of urgency in how we live our lives. We've explored the WHY, WHAT, and HOW. Now, it's time to look at the timeline of our lives and “seize the day”.

Bible Passages: Ephesians 5:15-21 | Romans 11:25 | Revelation 3:14-22 | Philippians 2:12-18 | Philippians 3:12-14

Questions

1. Why is change hard? As followers of Jesus why should we be able to change when non-Believers cannot?
2. As you think back over your life, identify several events that impacted the direction of your life? At the time they occurred did you see God's Hand in these events?
3. If you knew you had six months to live, what would you do with the time you had available to you?
4. After tonight's lecture, be prepared to discuss in your group your thoughts on the **Five Steps of Change:** (1) Pre-contemplation, (2) Contemplation, (3) Strategy, (4) Implementation, and (5) Maintenance.

