

# **The Gospel According to Jesus**

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Fall Semester 2008

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# What does it mean when Jesus says, “Follow Me?”

- Mark 8:34
- Luke 9:23
- John 12:24-26
- Luke 14:25-33
- Luke 9:57-62

# Salvation vs. Lordship

- 2 Corinthians 4:5
- Acts 16:31
- Romans 10:9
- John 15:1-17

# What is the Gospel?

- Good News – The Romans Road / FAITH.
- Can we have everlasting life and remain in rebellion against God?
- Can you accept Jesus as Savior and defer your commitment to make Him your Lord?
  - Separating faith from faithfulness.
  - Intellectual assent vs. wholehearted obedience.

# Our Witness to the World

- A generation of professing believers whose behavior is indistinguishable from the lost world in which we live.
- Our witness is sacrificed on the altar of cheap grace.
- Is the only criterion for salvation knowing and believing the right set of basic facts?
- Is obedience really optional?

# Our Witness to the World

- The logical conclusion is that someone's one-time profession is more valid than the evidence of that person's ongoing lifestyle.
- We should embrace them as a true believer just because they prayed a prayer?

# The Direction of This Class

- A complete reexamination of the gospel
  - Who is Jesus?
  - How is He identified in the gospel presentation?
  - How is He received by sinners?
  - What is saving faith?
  - What occurs in the saving act?
- We dare not sow a gospel that offers false hope or confusion!

# A Different Gospel?

- Galatians 1:6-9 – A sober warning!
- The difference between the gospel of Christ and another gospel is the difference between:
  - Being blessed and cursed.
  - Being sheep or goats.
  - Being saved or lost.
  - Being the true church or a cult.
  - The truth or a lie!

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- Three influences:
  - Reaction against Catholicism (mortal / venial).
  - Saying we are all equally in need of God's grace.
  - Sin is a serious matter before a holy God.
- If all sin was equal before God, His anger would be equal for whatever sin we commit.
- Our conscience would be weighed down equally by unrepentant sin.

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- It is biblical to say they are not.
  - It's not that some are greater sinners than others.
    - All have sinned.
    - God cannot be in the presence of sin.
- Degrees of sin in the Bible:
  - John 19:11 – Jewish leaders have committed a greater sin than Pilate.
  - Lev 18:22, Deut 7:25 – some sins are detestable implying some are not as severe.

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- Degrees of sin in the Bible:
  - Matthew 12:31 – blasphemy of the Holy Spirit was more severe than blasphemy of the Son.
  - Proverbs 6:16-19 – a list of sins singled out for their depraved nature.
  - Luke 12:47-48 – there are degrees of punishment depending on the offense.
  - Matthew 10:14-15 – Jesus says that it will be better for Sodom and Gomorrah than a city that does not welcome the apostles or their message.

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- Degrees of sin in the Bible:
  - Matthew 23:23 – Jesus talked about weightier things of the Law, if sins are equal no law would have more weight.
  - Matthew 23:24 – Pharisees strain water for a gnat but swallow a camel (this rebuke makes no sense if all sins are equal).

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- Where does this idea come from?
  - Matthew 5:27-28 – thinking and looking / acting.
  - It's not that lust and acting out are equal, but they both violate the same commandment.
  - The spirit of the law matters.

# Are all sins equal in God's sight?

- Where does this idea come from?
  - Matthew 5:22 – if you have hated your brother, you broke the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment.
  - Matthew 5:27-28 – if you have lusted, you broke the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment.
- If all sins are equal...
  - Matthew 5:32 – blanket justification for divorce.
  - God's character would be in question.
  - We are sinners from birth / sharing depravity.

# What is a sin leading to death?

- 1 John 5:16 – a difficult verse!
- Acts 5:1-10 (Ananias & Sapphira).
  - Deliberate, willful, continuous and unrepentant.
  - God's grace allows for delayed punishment!
- 1 Corinthians 11:28-32 – God's judgment bringing weakness, sickness and death.
- 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 – pray for sinning believers, before it's too late.

# Seven deadly sins?

- Are these what you think of as deadly sins?
  - Pride
  - Envy
  - Gluttony
  - Lust
  - Anger
  - Greed
  - Sloth

# Seven deadly sins?

- Proverbs 6:16-19 – the real list.
  - Haughty eyes.
  - Lying tongue.
  - Hands that kill the innocent.
  - Heart that plots evil.
  - Feet that race to do wrong.
  - A false witness.
  - Person who sows discord.

# What about the unpardonable sin?

- Mark 3:22-30 & Matthew 12:22-32
- Blasphemy = defiant irreverence
- Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit =
  - Accusing Jesus in person and on earth of being demon-possessed (Mark 3:28-30).
  - Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1-10).
- Today, the only unpardonable sin is unbelief.
  - John 3:16 & John 14:6.
  - 1 John 1:9 – even grievous sin can be forgiven.

# Today's Gospel: Good News or Bad?

- What are the phrases we use when one becomes a Christian?
- The gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship.
  - Follow Him in submissive obedience.
  - It was not a plea to make a decision or pray a prayer, or even become a believer.
- His message liberated people from bondage!

# Today's Gospel: Good News or Bad?

- Jesus' message was in every sense Good News, and it was far from easy-believism!
- There are many warnings about taking this call lightly – like Matthew 7:13-23.
- The prevailing view of what constitutes saving faith is growing broader and more shallow (to be *inclusive*).

# Abandonment of the Gospel

- Some say that conversion to Christ involves no spiritual commitment whatsoever!
  - We must simply believe the message or facts about Christ.
  - No turning from sin, change of lifestyle, no commitment – not even a willingness to yield to Christ's lordship!
  - These would amount to human effort, or works, which corrupt grace and have nothing to do with faith.

# Abandonment of the Gospel

- A deficient doctrine of salvation
  - Justification without sanctification.
  - We have bought into a system that encourages shallow and ineffectual faith.
  - The warning of Jesus – Matthew 7:21-22
    - Past “experiences” do not make up for obedience.
    - “Many” on that day, will be surprised.

# Abandonment of the Gospel

- Should we ever question our faith or doubt our salvation?
  - Is this a satanic attack on the believer?
  - Should it be dismissed with “a time and date” of when we prayed the prayer?
  - To question our salvation, does that challenge God’s authority?

# Abandonment of the Gospel

- The Bible teaches us to examine ourselves to see if we are of the faith!
  - 2 Corinthians 13:5 – see if faith is genuine
  - 2 Peter 1:10 – work hard to prove you really are
  - Luke 6:44 – a tree is identified by it's fruit
  - 1 John 3:10 – by living righteously, and loving
  - James 2:14-17 – faith without works is dead
  - 1 John 2:4 – by obeying His commandments
  - Romans 8:29 – conforming to His image

# Some Historical Background

- Prior to this century no serious theologian entertained a notion that it is possible to be saved and yet see nothing of the outward regeneration in one's lifestyle or behavior.
- Lewis Sperry Chafer – *He That is Spiritual*.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 – natural, spiritual, carnal

# Some Historical Background

- The “carnal” Christian?
  - Literally = fleshly
  - No one is sinless – 1 John 1:8, but...
  - Carnal for a time is not carnal for a lifetime.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17 – a new creation
  - Ephesians 2:10 – created for good works
  - 1 Corinthians 3:15 – has to do with rewards, spending energy on that which will not last.
  - Romans 12:1-2 – carnality down, spirituality up!

# Some Historical Background

- Lewis Sperry Chafer – *He That is Spiritual*.
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 – natural, spiritual, carnal
  - The “carnal” Christian?
  - The higher plane, second blessing? Is this the gospel of TBN and “Name It Claim It” crowd?
    - Age of law vs. age of grace – dispensationalism
    - Law and grace are both present, and salvation has always been by grace through faith.
      - Romans 4:1-5
      - Galatians 2:16

# Wrongly Dividing the Word

- 2 Timothy 2:15
  - “Accurately handling”
  - “Correctly explaining”
- 1 Corinthians 1:13
  - Christ divided into factions?
  - Savior vs. Lord?

# Wrongly Dividing the Word

- Lordship salvation defined by those who consider it heresy:
  - The view that for salvation a person must trust Jesus as his Savior from sin and must also commit himself to Christ as Lord of his life.”
- Is submitting to His lordship a human work?
  - “Making” Jesus Lord is not right, He IS Lord.
  - No more so than repentance or faith itself (2 Timothy 2:23-26 and Ephesians 2:8-9).

# Wrongly Dividing the Word

- Two famous verses that emphasize Lordship:
  - Acts 16:31
  - Romans 10:9
- MacArthur emphasizes that there is no salvation except for lordship salvation!
  - Lordship does not refer to master or boss, but to His deity, that He is God.
  - Lord then means “God” and more specifically “God who rules.”

# Wrongly Dividing the Word

- Matthew 15:7-9 – Jesus denounced those who worshiped Him only with their lips but not their lives.
- Acts 10:36 – Jesus Christ who is “Lord of all.”
- A. W. Tozer:
  - The lord will not save those whom He cannot command. He will not divide His offices. You cannot believe on a half-Christ. We must take Him for what He is...

# Faith and True Discipleship

- If belief and behavior are separate issues:
  - An unbiblical distinction between salvation and discipleship.
  - A dichotomy between carnal and spiritual.
  - A class distinction...
    - Believers, vs
    - True disciples
- James Boice called this “defective theology.”

# By Grace Through Faith

- Ephesians 2:8-10 – our biblical watershed
  - Grace does not change a person’s standing before God and leave his character untouched.
- True Grace
  - Titus 2:12
  - 1 Corinthians 7:19
- It does not give permission to live in the flesh but supplies the power to live in the Spirit.

# By Grace Through Faith

- Is belief alone enough?
  - James 2:19
    - Demons believe and tremble.
    - If we are drawn to Christ, we are drawn away from everything else.
  - Luke 18:13
    - Does this man express genuine repentance?
    - Does he come to God by his own human efforts?

# By Grace Through Faith

- Repentance means...
  - Metanoia – to think after, or change one's mind.
- Turn from self and sin to God.
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:9
- Faith and obedience are biblically linked
  - John 3:36
  - Romans 1:15; 16:26
  - 2 Thessalonians 1:8

# By Grace Through Faith

- Biblical salvation is defined...
  - By what it produces – Ephesians 2:10.
  - Not by what one does to get it.
- Fruit must be produced as evidence.
  - Matthew 7:17
- Salvation is never a result of human effort.
  - Titus 3:5-7

# Jesus Calls for New Birth

- Jesus wanted people to count the cost, because He wanted no shallow commitments.
- John 3 – with Nicodemus
  - Some view this as a statement of how easy it is to believe in Jesus.
  - Jesus was challenging him on everything he stood for and believed about his works-based religion.
  - Without rebirth, there was no hope.

# Jesus Calls for New Birth

- Some believed because of the miracles.
  - John 2:23-25
- Nicodemus stands as a testimony of inadequate faith.
  - His mind accepted the truth, but
  - His heart was unregenerate.

# Jesus Challenged Him on 4 Issues

- The futility of religion – John 3:4-5.
  - He followed Jesus’ symbolism.
  - What he was saying: “I can’t start all over, it’s too late for me. I’ve gone too far in this religious system, there is no hope for me if I have to start back at the beginning.”
  - Water and the Spirit – Baptism?
    - Not a work to perform, but
    - The OT image of purification – Ezekiel 36:25-37

# Jesus Challenged Him on 4 Issues

- The unity of revelation – John 3:7-10.
  - You the teacher of Israel don't understand?
  - The definite article means something...
  - NT salvation the same as always...
    - 2 Timothy 3:15
    - Matthew 5:17
  - A new start, rebirth, turning from sin to God.
    - Isaiah 1:16-18
    - Habakkuk 2:4, Genesis 15:6, Psalm 32:1-2

# Jesus Challenged Him on 4 Issues

- The necessity of regeneration – John 3:11-12
  - I don't understand, is really "I don't believe."
  - You do not receive = you do not believe.
    - 1 Corinthians 2:4
    - Seeing is believing or believing is seeing?
  - No one may ascend to heaven, not works-based.
    - Hebrews 1:1-2
    - Regeneration is not an option – must be born again, 3:7

# Jesus Challenged Him on 4 Issues

- The reality of redemption – John 3:14-15
  - From Numbers 21 – the essence of salvation.
  - Simply looking brings salvation, or the necessity of repentance?
  - Jesus “must” be lifted up – he had to die!
    - Hebrews 9:22
    - Romans 6:23
  - John 3:16, 20-21, 36
  - “Whoever” is more the self-righteous Pharisees!

# Jesus Calls for True Worship

- He offers salvation to the outcast.
- He does not mention the wages of sin, repentance, faith, atonement, His death for sin, the resurrection...
- How can this be a lesson on evangelism?

# Jesus Calls for True Worship

- A vivid contrast to Nicodemus.
- A self-revelation of the Messiah.
- A demonstration that the gospel was for the whole world, not just the Jews.
- Did she become a believer? That is always assumed in the text.

# Lessons From the Well

- Christ came to seek and save the lost.
  - Passing through Samaria was not normal for a Jew, He could have made other plans.
  - Samaritans were hybrid Jews – 722 BC.
    - Mt Gerizim rather than Jerusalem.
    - Samaritan Pentateuch rather than Torah.
    - Eleven commandments rather than ten, the sacredness of the altar built on Mt. Gerizim.

# Lessons From the Well

- God is no respecter of persons.
  - Moral outcast, ostracized from society.
  - Men did not speak to women in public.
  - Jesus shatters the racial barrier.

# Lessons From the Well

- Everyone who thirsts may come.
  - Jesus turns the table on her, she should thirst.
  - Whoever “drinks” does not mean faith, but conveys commitment (John 4:14).
    - Matthew 20:22, John 8:11
    - These imply full compliance and surrender.
  - There is no promise from the women to change her life, she wanted free water (John 4:15), if only she would ask for it.

# Lessons From the Well

- Everyone who thirsts may come.
  - Two issues needed to be addressed
    - Her sin.
    - His identity.
  - Jesus came to save people from sin (Matt 1:21).
  - Go call your husband – first a moral investigation and correction; confession.
  - Isaiah 55:1, 7

# Lessons From the Well

- Now is the acceptable time.
  - Jesus cuts the small talk and hit on forgiveness.
  - She must come to God on His terms (John 4:22).
  - The *where* of worship was not as important as the *who*, *when* and *how* of worship. (John 4:23-24).
  - 2 Corinthians 6:2
  - True worshippers ? – no possibility of being saved without being a true worshipper.

# Lessons From the Well

- Now is the acceptable time.
  - This was the personal invitation to her (4:22-24).
  - Still confused, she knew Messiah would explain everything (4:25).
  - Did she embrace Him as Messiah? Perhaps between 4:26-27.

# Lessons From the Well

- This man receives sinners.
  - The 12 return to hear the declaration! (4:27).
  - Her actions then indicate her response to salvation (4:28-29).
    - Expressed need.
    - Confessed sin.
    - Recognized Jesus as Messiah.
    - Bringing others to Jesus.
  - Many came to believe (4:39-41).

# Jesus Receives Sinners

- Jewish Messiah would condemn, but she recognized the Messiah and He receives sinners!
- Pharisees believed others were the sinners.
- Matthew 9:13 – I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.
- Revelation 22:17.

# Jesus Receives Sinners, but Jesus Refuses the Righteous

- Contemporary evangelism fails to confront people with the reality of their sin.
- Conservative churches teeming with people claiming to be born again, but live like the world.
- MacArthur's story of the church member.

# Coming to Grips with Sin

- Granting of eternal life without liberating the sinner from his bondage.
- Sin is not a peripheral issue, it is the central issue.
  - Luke 5:8
  - 1 Timothy 1:15
  - Job 1:1, 8
  - Isaiah 6:5

# Coming to Grips with Sin

- Matthew 9:9-13 – the call of Matthew.
- Why did Jesus come into the world?
  - To seek and save the lost.
  - To call sinners.
  - Unless people realize they have a sin problem, they will never come to Jesus for a solution.

# Receiving Sinners

- Matthew 9 has a series of miracles.
- Matthew is called out, (Matthew 9:9).
- Follow Me – Luke 5:28 adds something.
- He paid a higher price than other disciples.
  - The most veil sinner in Capernaum.
  - A traitor to Israel.
  - Sitting at his own tax table.

# Eating with Tax-Gatherers and Sinners

- A banquet to introduce his friends to Jesus.
- Matthew 9:10 sets the scene.
- Jesus' comment on the sick needing a doctor.
- Jesus blasts the Pharisees' pride (9:13).
- Jesus leveled the Pharisees self-righteousness (Luke 18:9).
- This is the theme for the gospel: repentance.

# Refusing the Righteous

- Those who think they are good enough.
  - Romans 3:10
- Matthew 9:13 compared to:
  - Luke 5:32
  - Matthew 4:17
  - Matthew 3:2
  - Acts 3:19, 20:21, 26:20

# He Opens Blind Eyes

- Is salvation assent to biblical facts, make salvation an academic issue?
- The first real creed: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- Opponents of Lordship salvation quote.
  - Thomas Constable – *The Gospel Message*.
- True faith embraces not only the facts of the gospel but the person of Christ as well.

# The Physical Miracle

- John 9 – the man born blind
  - First encounter – gives sight
  - Second encounter – gives insight
- Only miracle reversing a congenital defect.
- A beggar – did not ask Jesus to heal him (8).
- The question of sin (2).
- Jesus does not even talk to the man!

# The Inquisition

- Is this not the beggar? (8-9)
- Focused on tradition and not the person.
- The contrast:
  - The beggar
  - The Pharisees
- The parents' involved.
- Excommunication from synagogue.

# The Inquisition

- The blind man's sarcasm (25).
- The simple logic of the blind man (30-33).
  - So antagonized the Pharisees they put him out!
  - Meanwhile his faith is still incomplete.

# The Spiritual Miracle

- The beggar did not seek Jesus.
  - John 15:16
  - Luke 19:10
  - Romans 3:11
- The beggar did not gain his sight because he was exposed to the light!
- Teaching theology will not bring people to faith in Christ, without blindness removed.

# The Spiritual Miracle

- The man's faith response (35-38).
- Peter's confession (Matthew 16:15-16).
- The revelation was not his own (16:17).
- The man's first response and act – (38).
- The judgment of Christ (39).
- Salvation is a supernatural spiritual transformation!

# He Challenges an Eager Seeker

- MacArthur's illustration.
  - Accepted and baptized, but then...
  - No continuing interest in the things of Christ.
- The rich young ruler – Matthew 19:16-22.
  - Luke 14:33 – a summary of the event.
  - Salvation was the issue, not a higher level of discipleship after conversion.
  - Eternal life – conversion, evangelism, rebirth.

# He Challenges an Eager Seeker

- John 3:16 – “but have eternal life.”
- The perfect evangelism target...
- But he walked away not because he did not believe, or heard the wrong message, but he was unwilling to forsake what he loved most in the world and commit himself to Christ.
- Jesus would have failed a personal evangelism class!

# He Had the Right Motive

- He came seeking eternal life.
  - Matthew 6:33
  - Matthew 19:20, 22
  - Luke 18:18
- His religion had not given peace and security.
- Eternal life is not just a promise to come, it is quality as much as duration.

# He Had the Right Attitude

- Not haughty or presumptuous.
- Mark 10:17.
  - Running.
  - Publicly.
  - Kneeling.
- Kept all of the Law?
- This was a can't miss convert!

# He Came to the Right Source

- Not just to an evangelist, but to the source of eternal life.
  - 1 John 5:11.
  - 1 John 5:20.
- Teacher or Master – *didaskalos*, a title, but Mark and Luke add “good,” *agathos* – implying good in nature and essence.
- Came to the right person – Acts 4:12.

# He Asked the Right Question

- What good thing shall I do...
  - A works based mindset.
  - Earning divine favor.
- John 6:28 – a similar question.
- The preposterous answer? (19:17).
  - Jesus does not ask for a decision but builds a wall.
  - Why does Jesus not tell him the way of salvation by faith?

# He Was Filled With Pride

- He lacked a sense of his own sinfulness.
- Jesus does not just meet our psychological needs, offering quick solutions.
- Jesus confronts him with a fact that he was a living offense to God.
- Salvation is for those who realize their sin.
- The felt need is placed back onto God and His divine standard! Keep the Commandments.

# He Was Filled With Pride

- Paul in Romans – sin before salvation.
  - John 1:17
  - Galatians 3:24
- The second half of the list...
  - How was he treating his neighbor?
  - Was he respectful to parents?
- Jesus demands righteousness – can there be mercy without guilt?

# He Did Not Confess His Guilt

- Matthew 19:20 – reveals how he perceived the Law.
  - External requirements.
  - Self-justification (Romans 3:20).
- Jesus reinterpreted the Law (Matt 5:20-48).
- How did Jesus feel about him? (Mark 10:21).
- Sinners do not come to Jesus on their own terms.

# He Would Not Submit to Christ

- The ultimate test – Matthew 19:21.
  - Do you really love your neighbor as much as yourself?
  - There is no salvation through philanthropy!
    - Jesus must be in first place (Colossians 3:18).
  - He heard the statement and was grieved. He could not give up all to follow Jesus.
- Contrast his guy to Zaccheus! (Luke 19).

# He Seeks and Saves the Lost

- Luke 19:10 sums up the work of Christ.
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, wrote that the purpose was to set up the kingdom of Christ in fulfillment of the Davidic covenant.
- Jesus proclaimed the kingdom, He was preaching about salvation.
- The essence of his message was salvation!

# Search and Rescue

- Ezekiel 34:16
- Psalm 106:21
- Isaiah 43:11
- Hosea 13:4
- Matthew 1:21

# Search and Rescue

- The good news was for those who perceive themselves as sinners!
  - All are sinners but not all admit to depravity.
  - Jesus then becomes to them...
    - Friend, if they do – Matthew 11:19
    - Judge, if they don't – Matthew 7:22
  - Luke 18:10-13 is a perfect illustration – humble repentance is the only proper response to the gospel according to Jesus.

# The Setting for a Miracle

- Zaccheus – divinely prepared to receive and follow Christ.
  - Jericho – not far from Bethany.
  - Word spread and the streets were buzzing.
  - Jericho was an international crossroads.

# Seeking the Savior

- Zaccheus was despised by the community.
- Jesus had a special love for tax-collectors.
  - Luke 3:12
  - Luke 5:27
  - Luke 7:29
  - Luke 15:1
  - Luke 18:10-13
  - Luke 19:2

# Seeking the Savior

- Was Zaccheus seeking the Savior or was the Savior seeking Zaccheus?
  - Romans 3:11
  - Ephesians 2:1
  - Ephesians 4:18
  - John 6:44, 65
  - 1 John 4:19

# Seeking the Savior

- But God invites sinners to seek Him!
  - Isaiah 55:6
  - Jeremiah 29:13
  - Matthew 6:33
  - Matthew 7:7
  - Luke 19:3 – Zaccheus was trying to see Jesus!

# Seeking the Savior

- Zaccheus had a problem:
  - An outcast and a hated man.
  - His obstacles...
    - The crowd
    - His stature
    - Being the chief tax commissioner.
- Zaccheus was not concerned for his safety or his dignity.

# The Seeking Savior

- Direct evangelism approach – Luke 19:5
- Divinely ordained appointment – *I must come*
- Crowd reaction:
  - They saw no value in Zaccheus' soul.
  - They did not understand Jesus came for sinners, due to their blind pride.
- What do you think Jesus talked about when He went home with Zaccheus?

# The Fruit of Salvation

- Zaccheus' response to Jesus?
  - Luke 19:8-9
  - Addressed Him as Lord.
  - A radically changed man – the extorter becomes a philanthropist.
    - Repay how much?
    - Numbers 5:7

# The Fruit of Salvation

- He, too, was a son of Abraham – Luke 19:9, was not because he was Jewish.
  - Romans 2:28
  - Romans 4:11
  - Galatians 3:7
- The perfect harmony of Ephesians 2:8-10.

# The Fruit of Salvation

- The purpose of salvation?
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17
  - Luke 3:8
  - Ezekiel 36:26

# He Condemns a Hardened Heart

- The question of denying Christ
  - Matthew 10:33
  - 2 Timothy 2:12
- The Question of eternal security.
  - Perseverance of the saints.
  - All true believers will persevere to the end.
  - The truth of 1 John 2:19 and Jude 24.
- The question of Judas.

# The Apostasy of Judas

- His intention from the beginning?
- His experience with Jesus?
  - Hung out with Christ.
  - Saw the miracles of Christ.
  - Hear the preaching of Christ.
  - Participated in the ministry with Christ.
- No one ever questioned his faith or loyalty.

# The Apostasy of Judas

- Whatever he started with, his faith was not real – John 13:10-11
  - Unregenerate.
  - Hard hearted.
  - Skilled in hypocrisy.
  - Fooling everyone but Jesus.

# The Apostasy of Judas

- Jesus knew the whole time.
  - John 13:18
  - Psalm 41:9
  - Psalm 55:12-14
  - Matthew 26:24
- Those who respond positively but not wholeheartedly risk eternal lostness. It's not enough to just accept Christ.

# One of You Will Betray Me

- “It was not the will of God apart from Judas’ own choice that he should betray Jesus.”
  - Jesus repeatedly warns Judas.
  - Judas repeatedly turns away.
- Jesus was troubled in spirit – John 13:21
  - Unreciprocated love for Judas.
  - Ingratitude of Judas.
  - Hypocrisy of Judas, and immanent betrayal.

# Who Is It?

- The disciples were perplexed?
  - Judas was treated like the others.
  - No one saw him as the black sheep.
- Contrast:
  - Judas' hatred for Jesus.
  - John's love for Jesus.
- The question – John 13:24-25.

# The Guest of Honor

- The piece of bread – another gesture of love.
  - Judas seated in the honor place.
  - Jesus washed feet and treated Judas as a friend.
  - Satan finally entered – John 13:27
  - Judas' final rejection of Christ.

# Do It Quickly

- “Jesus was through with Judas.”
  - He wanted him out of the room – John 13:27
  - Is anyone too far gone to be saved?
- Into the night...
  - The beginning of eternal night in his soul.
  - Never having a sincere faith.

# The Kiss of Death

- Death for Jesus or for Judas?
- On the cheek was a sign of intimacy.
  - Luke 22:48 – Betraying with a kiss?
  - Mark 14:45 – Rabbi.
  - Matthew 26:50 – friend.
    - Comrade or fellow.
    - Not friend as in John 15:14.

# They All Forsook Him and Fled

- How the disciples differed from Judas – Matthew 26:56.
  - Fear vs. treachery.
  - Failure vs. plotting.
  - Forgiveness vs. suicide.
  - Lapse in normal behavior vs. manifestation of a depraved soul.

# Marks of a False Disciple

- He loves temporal gain.
- He is marked by deceit.
- He was in it for what he could get out of it.

# He Offers a Yoke of Rest

- Scripture does not support “Accepting Christ”
  - The command is to repent and follow Christ.
  - Active submission over passive acceptance.
  - 1 John 4:19
  - Colossians 1:13
  - Ephesians 3:17
- Jesus’ invitation to sinners in contrast to what we hear today – Matthew 11:25-30

# He Offers a Yoke of Rest

- The invitation of Jesus is to move toward ever deepening levels of commitment, to experience authentic discipleship.
  - Recognizing God's sovereignty.
  - Recognizing our responsibility.
- Jesus' offer of rest is a call to conversion.
- Five essential elements of conversion:

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Humility:
  - Matthew 11:25 – this truth is not hidden from smart people.
  - They are hidden from proud people.
  - There is no sin in the intellect.

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Humility:
  - Human intellect cannot understand spiritual truth.
    - 1 Corinthians 2:9
    - 1 Corinthians 2:14
    - Matthew 18:3
    - Psalm 138:6
    - Isaiah 57:15
    - 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Revelation:
  - Comes as a child based on the revelation of God.
  - The most profound verse – Matthew 11:27
    - Declaration of deity.
    - Underscores the son's uniqueness.
  - No one knows the Son except the Father...
    - That is why philosophy and man-made religion is unfruitful and vain.
    - This knowledge is unavailable for finite beings.

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Repentance:
  - Notice God's sovereignty determines the recipients of grace...
  - The next phrase is an open invitation!
    - Matthew 11:28
    - John 6:37
  - Rest for the heavy laden.
    - Working hard.
    - A yoke too heavy to bear – Acts 15:10
  - Repentance is a complete turn-around.

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Faith:
  - Come to Me = believe in Me – John 6:35
  - Faith is the flip side of repentance.
    - Repentance = turn from sin.
    - Faith = turn to Jesus.

# Essential Elements of Conversion

- Submission:
  - Take My yoke, learn from Me – 11:29
    - They understood the yoke is symbol of submission.
    - Worn by animals to bear a load, under the authority of the master.
  - The pupil takes on the teacher's yoke.
    - The yoke of the Law, human effort, works, sin are all heavy burdens.
    - We can carry the yoke of Jesus – Phil 4:13.
  - Rest for your soul – Jeremiah 6:16