

11-16-25 Points

Title: Following Jesus: Our Primary Job

Sermon Summary:

This sermon emphasizes that the primary calling of every Christian is not merely to claim salvation, but to actively follow Jesus Christ. Using the metaphor of a fire department where members can become distracted from their main purpose of fighting fires, the pastor illustrates how believers often get caught up in religious activities while losing focus on their fundamental mission: following Christ. The message challenges the congregation to move beyond passive faith to an active, transformative relationship with Jesus that naturally compels them to speak about Him. Drawing from Acts 2-4, the sermon highlights how the early apostles couldn't help but proclaim Jesus despite threats and persecution. True salvation is presented not as a one-time decision but as a continuous journey of following Christ, being transformed by the Holy Spirit, and becoming bold witnesses who prioritize Jesus above comfort, wealth, and even personal safety.

Key Points:

- Our primary job as Christians is to follow Jesus, not just to claim salvation or perform religious duties
- We are easily distracted from our main purpose, allowing various activities to bump Jesus out of priority
- The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves
- Holiness comes not from our own efforts but from Christ's holiness working through us as we yield to Him
- True faith is demonstrated through action; faith without works is dead
- The early apostles were so filled with the Holy Spirit that they "couldn't help but speak about Jesus" despite persecution and threats
- We should be able to thank God in all circumstances, including difficult ones, as a sign of spiritual maturity
- Salvation involves repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit, followed by a transformed life
- There is nothing we shouldn't be willing to surrender for Christ; He must

be number one in our lives

- Following Jesus should set us on fire spiritually; if we're not passionate about Him, we're not following closely enough
- We need to examine ourselves with sober judgment and ask where we truly stand with Christ

Scripture Reference:

- Acts 2:38-39 (Repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 3:19-26 (Times of refreshing, turning from wicked ways)
- Acts 4:1-20 (Peter and John's boldness before the religious leaders)
- Romans 6 (Buried with Christ in baptism, raised to new life)
- Romans 12:1-3 (Offering bodies as living sacrifices, transformation by renewing of mind)
- James (Faith without works is dead)
- Matthew (The greatest commandments; narrow gate leading to life)

Stories:

- The opening illustration of volunteers for a Christ Fire Department who forget their primary purpose is to put out fires, representing how Christians can forget their main calling to follow Jesus
- The healing of the crippled man at the temple gate by Peter and John (Acts 3), demonstrating the power of Jesus' name
- The confrontation between Peter and John and the religious authorities who commanded them not to speak about Jesus, to which they replied they couldn't help but speak about what they'd seen and heard
- The rich young ruler who walked away sad because he wasn't willing to give up his wealth to follow Jesus
- Personal testimony about praying over a broken bread machine, illustrating how Jesus cares about even small matters when we include Him in our daily lives
- Reference to the martyrdom of the apostles who never stopped speaking about Jesus even when facing death