**"Founded on the Rock"**

**Lesson Six - The Lordship of Christ**

**Mat.28:18-20**

According to statistics, only about 3% of people who “accept Christ” can be found in a church one year later. A Gallup poll showed that 60% of Americans consider themselves Christians, yet another poll done at the same time showed that that belief didn’t really affect the way these same people lived their lives. God and the Church are for the most part seen as irrelevant, and Christian faith doesn’t transform people’s lives. Why is this? I believe that one major reason is that people have a wrong concept of what it means to be a Christian.

I. The truth is, Jesus calls us to become disciples, not just “decisions.”

 \* Here in Mat. 28 we see that we’re to make disciples and teach them to obey Christ’s commands.

\* A disciple is a person under discipline (comes from same root), a disciple is also a follower, someone

 under training, who is learning a way of life.

\* Mat. 11:28-30 says, “take my yoke upon you and learn of me” – which clearly expresses this idea of

 discipline, because when a rabbi said take my yoke upon you, it meant enter into training under me.

\* Today there is an error many have accepted, the idea of two levels of Christians. One level is the

 believer (the Christian) and then there is the disciple, a more advanced level.

\* This is nonsense, and unscriptural, because Acts 11:26 tells us that the disciples were first called

 Christians in Antioch! A Christian is a disciple and only a disciple is a true Christian.

II. What determines whether or not one is a disciple is the Lordship of Christ!

1. A. The definition of Lordship: Jesus is Lord, boss, master, owner, in charge, the Commander, the King
2. who rules over our lives.

 B. This is the emphasis of the Bible

 1. Phil. 2:9-11 tells us that God intends everyone to acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

 2. Acts 2:36 says God has made Jesus Lord and Christ.

 3. Even at His birth, Jesus was announced to be “A Savior who is Christ, the Lord.”

 4. In Scripture, Jesus is called Savior 56 times, but Lord 7,973 times! Which do you think God wants

 to emphasize more?!

 C. Even Salvation itself is actually nothing more than a changing of Lords or masters in our lives!

 1. Ro. 10:9 says it all starts by confessing that Jesus is Lord!

 2. To be saved, one must recognize that he or she has been lord of his/her own life, and give that up

 (which is what it means to repent), and surrender to Jesus!

 D. Lordship means that Christ is in charge, not me!

 1. Mat. 6:24 says no one can serve two masters!

 2. Mat.7:21 – not those who say, Lord, Lord, but rather, those who obey God!

 3. Ro. 6:16 – we are servants of the one we obey, not just the one we *say* we follow.

III. Three Keys to Lordship

 A. God Must be First! (not second, third, or anything less than first)

 1. The Bible says, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God…” (Mat. 6:33).

 2. The question is, who is on the throne of our lives? Is it God, or me? Is it pleasure, business, money,

 relationships? No one can serve two masters!

 B. Renunciation (forsaking, denying, releasing)

 1. Lu. 14:33, Mat. 16:24-28 both say we must renounce all to follow Christ.

 2. This means such things as our rights; the right to marry whomever, to live wherever, or do

 whatever we might want to do.

 3. Possessions; is it right for us to indulge in luxuries? To be extravagant? To buy a BMW? To waste

 money, resources?

 4. Family; what if God called you to leave your family and live far away from them?

 5. Our own lives; Jesus actually bought us with His blood – we belong to Him!

 C. Obedience

 1. Lu. 6:46 – Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and yet not do what I say?

 2. This is why the statistics are as they are! The so-called “Christians” do not obey their Lord!

 3. Some examples: People who live together outside of marriage, engage in sexual relations with

 people with whom they're not married, do non-ethical things in business, disobey the laws of the

 land, etc.

 4. What is God saying to you? Is He asking you to stop doing something? To give more time to Him,

 to family, to develop discipline in some area of life?

 5. Acts 10:14 – this was a time when Peter said, “No, Lord!” That’s a contradiction!

IV. The Fruit that comes from Lordship

 A. Maybe all this seems too hard, even impossible.

 1. Sometimes it really is! Only God can do it in us, that’s for sure.

 2. The Christian life can be costly: it can cost tears, sacrifice, even life itself!

 3. But the truth is that if we had a truly heavenly perspective, none of it would seem that way. Our

 problem is we have too earthly a view.

 B. It’s all quite different once we see Christ as the Pearl of great price (Mat.13:46). After all, He is more

 valuable than the whole universe!

 1. He is more loving than anyone, and He showed that love in His life and death on the cross.

 2. He cares for us, always wants the best for us – only our well-being.

 3. He saves, heals, gave His life for us. He is a person in whom we can trust.

 4. There is nothing that He desires that might harm or damage us, or that would ultimately detract

 from our lives in some way.

 5. All that He demands of us, He Himself will also fulfill in us if we let Him.

 6. His yoke is easy His burden is light (Mat. 11:30).

 7. To obey Him will bring a reward which is far superior to anything else we could seek for or desire.

 (Mat.19:29 says we will receive a hundred-fold more than we have given up.)

 C. Think of the example of Peter

 1. He was a weak, unstable man. He was just fleshly, carnal like any of us.

 2. When Jesus called him, it was for him a fearful thing, very insecure. He was called to a rigorous,

 disciplined life of sacrifice. He had to change, learn, be rebuked. He had to suffer, deny himself,

 leave his loved ones. He was arrested several times and imprisoned. In the end, he had to be

 crucified, and that upside down!

 3. But what glory he experienced! He wrote two books of scripture, the foundation of the heavenly

 Jerusalem will have his name on it, he lived with Christ Himself, saw the miracles, participated in

 them himself, became an apostle of the Lamb of God.

 D. Look at the example of the rich young ruler compared with Zacchaeus.

 1. One couldn’t give it up and he walked away sad, still lost, separated, guilty.

 2. The other experienced forgiveness, new life, freedom, a clear conscience, victory!

The point today is that our calling as Christians is not to simply repeat some prayer and that’s our ticket to heaven. No, the Christian life is a call to be reconciled with God so we live with Him as He originally intended. And that means it’s a call to follow Jesus as Lord, rather than ourselves or Satan. A tree can either produce good fruit or bad. Ro. 6:21-23 and Gal. 5:19-21talk about the two contrasting kinds of fruit we can bear, depending on which lord we follow. I pray you will make that choice to truly surrender to the Lordship of Christ, because that’s what makes the difference. It’s what separates the sheep from the goats, the works of the flesh and the devil from the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Lord whether you accept that or not. But only those who submit to Him as Lord will be with Him in the end! (Ro. 10:9, 10;) One day ever tongue will confess He is Lord, one day every knee will bow. But eternal life is for those who gladly choose to do so now!