

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 5 Issue 9



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

ONE WEEK TO LIVE

Just Do It! (Matthew 21:28-32)

Calvin Brown
March 3, 2019

If you knew that you had less than one week to live, what would you do? How would you spend your time? What final words and wisdom would you give to those you love? In our series titled "One Week to Live," we are looking at the final week in the life of Jesus as recorded by Matthew. In the days leading up to His crucifixion, Jesus taught 5 parables. While each parable has its own distinctive meaning, all 5 share a sense of urgency and finality. Jesus wanted His followers to know that things were about to change and that they had to be ready.

Today's message titled "Just Do It" was based on the parable of "The Two Sons." Calvin used Nike's "Just Do It" campaign, launched thirty years ago, to challenge us regarding our Christian life. The enduring slogan has inspired generations of people to act, to be bold, to break through barriers and to be courageous in the face of opposition (which often times comes from within... procrastination, fear, laziness, disbelief, etc.). Conversely, those who give lip service and don't act upon what they know, or the opportunities they have, are seen as pretenders, and eventually, they are exposed. Sadly, these people miss out!

Calvin suggested that the Christian life can be viewed from this perspective as well. The average household has 4.4 Bibles and 80% of US households say they own a Bible. Sound Bible teaching fills the airwaves of television, radio and the Internet. Additionally, we have nearly 400,000 churches in the US. Yet, many studies reveal the lack of difference between Christians and non-Christians in terms of lifestyle and decision-making. Most Christians don't share their faith, serve in some meaningful way, give sacrificially or connect with others in discipling relationships. Consequently, a shortage of fruit exists among professing Christians.

What keeps us from acting upon the incredible realities of the life, teachings, death, burial, resurrection and imminent return of Jesus Christ? What causes us to read and hear timeless truths from the Bible, but not respond, or not respond more fully? Calvin showed how doubt, delay and defiance are 3 of the attitudes that hold us back in our Christian lives. The antidote is sanctification. As we grow in Christ, we move from being saved, to being a growing disciple, to being all in. Or, as Calvin put it, giving God dominion over our lives. This is our assurance that we are not merely giving lip service to the Christian life.

Calvin ended the message by challenging us that Jesus calls us to reflect, repent and respond to the call to live fully for Him. He knows each of us have been or are in a place of disobedience. He is gentle and says "Just Do It!" Just do the will of the Father the best you know how. Don't be like those who say they will do the will of the Father – those who pay lip service by going through the motions – but they don't act upon the Father's call and invitation to join him in eternal matters.

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Matthew 21:1-17. These chapters follow the last week of Jesus' life. Note what you observe about His teaching.

Read Matthew 21:28-32. Who is Jesus addressing in this parable? Why does Jesus commend the one who said he would not go, but ultimately did? How do you think the leaders of the day reacted to it?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. What does this passage teach about our responsibility in the process of discipleship? What are the benefits of being diligent in our walk? What are the dangers of giving lip service?

Read Galatians 2:20. How would your life be different if you lived out this verse?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Do you attend Sunday service (worship and fellowship) regularly? If so, why? If not, why not?

Are you in a small group or discipling relationship? If so, why? If not, why not?

Are you serving in the Church and/or community? If so, why? If not, why not?

Do you give consistently? Sacrificially? If so, why? If not, why not?

In what area of your life do need to yield (or yield in greater) to God? What might that look like?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

When you meet with your family and/or small group this week, review the parable in Matthew 21:28-32. Talk about the two sons – have an honest discussion about where each person in your group currently stands. Encourage those who are laboring! Come alongside those who are giving lip service.

KEY POINT:

Reflect, repent and respond to the Father's invitation to join Him in the work of the Kingdom. In short, Just Do It!

RESOURCES:

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

The Call by Os Guinness

Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream by David Platt