



## Where Are You in Your Walk with the Lord?

**W**hen Jesus lived and walked on this earth, vast numbers of people came to Him with enormous problems. How did He respond? He healed and delivered them from their afflictions with great compassion.

For a while, His 12 disciples were just observers, but all that changed when Jesus called them to serve Him. He gave them authority to heal the sick and to cast out demons and told them to go and preach the Kingdom. He explained what this call meant for them: “Don’t love and hold on to your life, but give it away instead” (see Matthew 10:39).

We must be continually reminded that the call of Christ on our life never changes—no matter what. But so often we change as we grasp the reality of the narrow road. Let us look at some practical, specific directions Jesus has given us for following Him.

### Remember the reality of our world

Recently I read the results of a 10-year study on the fate of people living in Asian slums. The statistics of tens of thousands of children being trafficked, abused and killed are tragic.

Let us examine our hearts. Do we see that these children belong to the Living God? What about the unreached multitudes in our world who have no solution to their problems or sin? There is no hope for them in this life or in the next, except in Jesus Christ.

We must commit our lives to see the Gospel preached until the very end. We cannot compromise, change or go back. We must stay focused.

### Enter into the experience of the Lord

Thirty years after the fact, Matthew wrote about this incident in his Gospel: “*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd*” (Matthew 9:36).

Why didn’t Matthew write, “When we saw what was happening, we broke down in tears and were overcome by incredible pain for the lostness of the multitude”? Because the hearts of the disciples were not tender like Jesus’ heart. They only watched Him and, perhaps, wondered what was wrong with Him.

Christ’s goal for His disciples was that they would understand that He came not to live and be King, but to go to the cross and die. They comprehended this later, and Church history says that all except John died as martyrs.

May God help us to enter into the life, experience and agony of our Lord for the lost world.

### Understand that prayer is the only hope

“*Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest*” (Matthew 9:38).

This was the blueprint Jesus gave to His disciples in light of the massive task of reaching the lost before they perished. And I am convinced that there is no other way to get the job done. The quickest way to see a breakthrough is to talk to God about it.

The words in Jeremiah 8:20 are still the cry of nearly 2 billion people: “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!*” I tell you, time is running out!

When was the last time you prayed with passion and tears for those who are lost? Without a deeper and more profound commitment to prayer on our part, nothing will change this tragedy.

### Self-preservation is not the Christianity of the Bible

There is no way we can fulfill the call the Lord gave us to reach the unreached without suffering.

My dear brothers and sisters, most of the Western Christianity that we are accustomed to is all about preserving our life. We are told that we can have a wonderful life here on earth before going to heaven.

But that is not the Christianity of the New Testament. I challenge you to read it again and again. Don’t try to find commentaries and people who will support you in sparing your life. Embrace the One who suffered and died on the cross for you and for all those who have yet to hear His name—and choose to follow in His footsteps.

### Commit yourself afresh

It’s a mistake to think that Christ had only 12 disciples. No, He had hundreds. But every time He said, “The cost for you to follow Me is sacrifice, pain and being others-centered,” people began to drop out one by one. In the end, Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked them, “*Do you also want to go away?*”

“*Lord, to whom shall we go?*” Peter replied. “*You have the words of eternal life*” (John 6:67–68).

Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Let us each commit ourselves afresh to the call the Lord gave us, and let us continue our journey to follow Him.

