

1. Who made a difference in the direction of your life for which you are grateful?
2. When you look at people, what does it take before you feel compassion for them?

***Often times people wait for a person to experience a loss or they seem some physical handicap that makes them feel compassionate. Our goal is to look at every person with compassion, because we should know that on a deeper level, everybody is going through some struggle in loss. It may not seem like a big struggle or loss to us, but it is for that person.***

**Matthew 9:35-38** Today's New International Version (TNIV)

**The Workers Are Few**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Commentary Material

**Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.**<sup>NKJV</sup> This verse introduces the next discourse that Matthew recorded (from [9:35 through 10:42](#)). This verse also mirrors [4:23](#), a verse that introduced the last recorded discourse in [chapters 5 through 7](#).

Jesus *went about all the cities and villages*. Again, Jesus' ministry is described as *teaching, preaching, and healing*. These were the three main aspects. "Teaching" shows Jesus' concern for understanding; "preaching" shows his concern for commitment; and "healing" shows his

concern for wholeness. His miracles of healing authenticated his teaching and preaching, proving that he truly was from God.

The Good News of the kingdom was that the promised and long-awaited Messiah had finally come. His healing miracles were a sign that his teaching was true.

**9:36** But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.<sup>NKJV</sup> Wherever Jesus went, crowds gathered.

But when Jesus saw these *multitudes*, he was *moved with compassion for them*. The word "compassion" describes the deep inner mercy of God, often described in the Old Testament. The prophet Ezekiel compared Israel to sheep without a shepherd ([Ezekiel 34:5, 6](#); see also [Numbers 27:17](#); [1 Kings 22:17](#)); Jesus saw the *weary and scattered* people as *sheep having no shepherd*. The word for "weary" can also mean "troubled," "bewildered," or "despondent." The word for "scattered" is also "prostrate" or "thrown to the ground." The two words are near

Today I noticed for the first time that Jesus' compassion on the multitudes was not only because they were many, but because they were scattered, divided, and distressed . . . So it is among our tribes [of Auca Indians]— scattered, but not many. Yet they merit His mercy. Thus God confirms my way with these encouragements from His Word.

*Jim Elliott*

synonyms that stress man's helplessness without God. Jesus came to be the Shepherd, the one who could show people how to avoid life's pitfalls (see [John 10:14](#); [1 Peter 2:25](#)). Jesus considered the Pharisees to have failed in leading the people to God, who were therefore left without a shepherd.

**9:37-38** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."<sup>NKJV</sup>

Jesus looked at the crowds following him and referred to them as a field ripe for harvest, but *the laborers* to bring in the harvest *are few*. These "laborers" were the disciples, then few in number. Jesus commanded his disciples to *pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers*. The "Lord of the harvest" refers to God. The verb translated "send out" is a strong term, meaning to "thrust forth." In this context it speaks of a strong push to get workers into the field. These laborers must warn people of coming judgment and call them to repentance. Many people are ready to give their lives to Christ if someone would show them how. We are to pray that people will respond to this need for workers. Often, when we pray for something, God answers our prayers by using *us*. Be prepared for God to use you to show another person the way to him. [Chapter 10](#) will describe this mission and what it will involve in more detail.

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### LIFE APPLICATION

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## MISSIONS

Missions finds its motive in the heart of Jesus ("He was moved with compassion") and its strength in the prayers of the church.

Churches which prefer projects to prayer are missing the power, and missions will eventually fizzle there. Churches where zeal comes from "saving the lost" or "rescuing the perishing"— with emphasis on hurry and efficiency because time is short— miss the heart of Jesus' own motives.

The keys to success in missions are to grow closer to Jesus' heart for people and to pray. Whatever else your church does, learn to love and learn to pray

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Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – Matthew.

3. Why do you think Jesus actually went to the people, instead of having them try to simply come to him?

Jesus knew that people did not know or understand what He had to offer to them. People may not come to church simply because they have no idea of what the church may have to offer to their lives. They may think they already have all of God that is available to them. Jesus went to them because that was how the contact was going to have to be made. Love will cause us to seek out others.

4. When Jesus saw people, he saw them as harassed and helpless. What are some of the harassments people are bombarded with today?

People are harassed by family members, by co-workers, by bosses and by friends. People are harassed by pressures to live at a certain lifestyle, harassed by pressures to do things they do not want to do, harassed by fear, harassed by unrealistic goals, harassed by pressures to perform and a whole lot more.

## 5. How do you think God wants to use the harassments in our lives?

God wants to use the harassments in our lives to draw us closer to Him. They are intended to help us see that we have needs that we cannot fulfill on our own. God allows enough trouble to come into our lives to keep us from trusting in ourselves. He knows exactly what our harassment level is before we break. As his children, God keeps us from reaching our breaking point if we look to God for help.

## 6. What makes a sheep without a shepherd, helpless?

A sheep does not have natural weapons with which to defend itself. There are no sharp teeth, not sharp claws, and no blazing speed to escape. It is the power of the shepherd that keeps the sheep alive.

## 7. In what ways are we helpless without Christ?

**1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)** <sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. –As a sheep is no match for a lion in the natural realm, we are not a match for Satan. We would be crushed by him if the power of God would not restrain Satan. Without Christ, we turn to our resources to handle our problems and difficulties. Our selfish nature keeps us from doing God's will in stressful situations. As for our salvation, we would have no way to remove the sins we have accumulated during our lifetime. There would be no hope for us at the judgment.

## 8. How does Christ make a difference in our lives as our Shepherd?

No matter how bleak life may appear, we still have a hope that things are not over and that God will cause us to prevail. Everything is not settled on this side of the grave. It is really what happens on the other side that ultimately matters. We do not walk through life blindly. When we look at Psalm 23, we do see there is a presence walking with us throughout our lives.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup> I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## 9. Who are the shepherds of non-believers today?

The nonbelievers look to the shepherds of the entertainment world, the media, the sports athletes, the rich, the famous, and the false religions. Many people are blindly following philosophies and people who are leading them to destruction. Even on the local level of our youth following misguided youth who serve as gang leaders, who are in reality false shepherds. Jesus expects us to know His voice and to turn away from those who are calling to us.

In John 10, Jesus contrasted himself as the Good Shepherd with the image of the thief and the hired hand. What a difference between the Good Shepherd and the thief and the hired hand! The thief steals, kills, and destroys; the hired hand does the job only for money, but readily flees when danger comes. The Good Shepherd is committed to the sheep. Jesus is not merely doing a job; he is committed to loving us and even laying down his life for us. Religious leaders who are concerned only about their reputation and their petty rules do not have

this commitment. Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – John.

10. Jesus says “the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few”, what exactly does he mean?

People are ready to hear the word of God and be brought into the kingdom, but not enough people are available to get the message to them.

11. What keeps down the number of workers at Glenville/Calvary?  
Priorities, Selfishness, Fear, Lack Of Urgency, etc.

12. If you knew your invitation to someone to come to church with you would change his or her life forever, would you take the opportunity to do it? What keeps you from making the invitation without knowing what the results might be?

## Life-Sharing Lesson 2 “Just How Important Is Jesus?” John 3:16-17

1. What was one of the most loving things someone did for you?

### John 3:16-17 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

#### Commentary

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**<sup>NKJV</sup> The entire gospel comes to a focus in this verse. God's love is not just to a certain group of individuals—it is offered to *the world*.

God's love is not static or self-centered; it reaches out and draws others in. Here God's actions defined the pattern of true love, the basis for all love relationships—when you love someone, you are willing to sacrifice dearly for that person. Sacrificial love expresses itself without assurance that the love will be returned in kind. The timing of that love was highlighted by Paul's words, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8](#) NIV).

Sacrificial love is also practical in seeking ways to meet the needs of those who are loved. In God's case, that love was infinitely practical, since it set out to rescue those who had no hope of rescuing themselves. God paid dearly to save us; *He gave His only begotten Son*, the highest price he could pay. The term translated "only begotten" (monogene) expresses Jesus' unique value and position as God's only Son. The salvation God offers freely was costly to him.

This offer is made to *whoever believes*. To "believe" is more than intellectual agreement that Jesus is God. It means putting our trust and confidence in him that he alone can save us. It is to put Christ in charge of our present plans and eternal destiny. Believing is both trusting his words as reliable and relying on him for the power to change.

Jesus accepted our punishment and paid the price for our sins so that we would *not perish*. *Perish* does not mean physical death, for we all will eventually die. Here it refers to eternity apart from God. Those who believe will receive the alternative, the new life that Jesus bought for us—*everlasting life* with God.

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## LIFE APPLICATION

### THE CHOICE

[John 3:16](#), along with the rest of the New Testament, assumes that apart from God's intervention, people perish (see [Mark 4:38](#); [Luke 13:3, 5](#); [John 10:28](#); [Romans 2:12](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)). The word adds a sense of hopelessness to the fact of dying—"to perish" is to come to a dead end. In this verse, escape from the tragic fate of perishing is promised to those who believe in God's Son. Instead of perishing, they will have "eternal life," or "life in the ageless age." Perishing is not an end to be desired, for it removes from the picture any vestige of what we could call life. But this verse makes it clear that those who refuse to choose Christ and the life he offers have chosen to perish. Eternal life awaits our decision.

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One of the distinctives of John's Gospel is its awareness of the reader. John often includes reflective and explanatory statements that help us understand events more clearly. For instance, in [2:17](#) John explained the insight given to the disciples about Jesus' actions and words in the temple. Further on, in [2:23-24](#), John summarized Jesus' general ongoing relationship with people. As an eyewitness, John wanted us to know not only the facts of God's human visit to earth, but also the eventual lessons and conclusions that came to light from those facts.

With this characteristic of John's Gospel in mind, some commentators have concluded that Jesus' direct speaking stopped with [3:15](#), and that John added the following inspired words ([3:16-21](#)) by way of further explanation. Either way, no other verse in all the Bible so encapsulates the basic message of the gospel: God so dearly loved all the people in the world that he gave his only Son so that we could have eternal life.

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## LIFE APPLICATION

### LIVING FOREVER DOESN'T SOUND SO GREAT . . .

Some people are repulsed by the idea of eternal life because their lives are miserable with pain, hunger, poverty, or disappointment. But eternal life is not an extension of a person's mortal life; eternal life is God's life embodied in Christ given to all believers now as a guarantee that they will live forever. Not only will we be changed, almost everything else will also be changed ([Revelation 21:1-4](#)). In eternal life there is no death, sickness, enemy, evil, or

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sin. When we don't know Christ, we make choices as though this life is all we have. In reality, this life is just the introduction to eternity. Receive this new life by faith and begin to evaluate all that happens from an eternal perspective.

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**See Also:**

[Chart: All the Greatest](#)

**3:17-18 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world."<sup>NKJV</sup>**

Why condemn an already condemned world? All people are already under God's judgment because of sin—specifically the sin of not believing in God's Son ([16:9](#)). The only way to escape the condemnation is to believe in Jesus, the Son of God, because he came **"that the world through Him might be saved."**<sup>NKJV</sup> He who believes in him is saved from God's judgment. And God *wants* people to believe: He is patient, "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" ([2 Peter 3:9](#) NKJV).

When we consider ways to communicate the gospel, we should follow Jesus' example. We do not need

to condemn unbelievers; they are condemned already. We must tell them about this condemnation, and then offer them the way of salvation—faith in Jesus Christ. When we share the gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus'—willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

If I live my life like there is a God,  
and find in the end that there isn't, I  
have gained much and lost little. But  
if I live my life like there isn't a God,  
and find out in the end that there is,  
I've gained little and lost everything.

*Blaise Pascal*

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### GOOD NEWS

The gospel truly is good news! It is not always seen as good news because people are often afraid it is too good to be true. Moments of honest reflection usually confront us with the hopelessness of our lives. We know we are far from perfect. The bad news is so bad that we can hardly stand it. So we try to protect ourselves from our fears by putting our faith in something we do or have: good deeds, skill, intelligence, money, possessions. Since perfection is far out of reach, we are tempted to settle for effort. We end up living barely a step ahead of despair. To those who can see their predicament, the gospel is welcomed good

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news. Only God can save us from the one thing that we really need to fear— eternal condemnation. We believe in God by recognizing the insufficiency of our own efforts to find salvation and by asking him to do his work in us.

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Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – John.

2. What does it mean to say that God so loved the world?

To begin with I think it means that God does not see unsaved people as God's enemies, but as lives to be reclaimed by the power of God. All people matter to God, even those we would hope God would be at war with.

3. Do you think God would be loving, if God knew people were going to be saved without Christ? Why or why not?

If Jesus' death did not really matter, then I think I would have been cruel for God to have sent Him to die for us. I can imagine sacrificing my daughter to save my wife or my daughter to save my wife. But I can't imagine allowing either of them to die when I knew there was a way that they could both be saved by a simple action on my part. The love between the Father and the Son is too great for the Father to have abused the Son by an unnecessary and cruel death on the cross. Love always looks out for what is best for the other.

4. What is it that makes Jesus unique from every other person or option to God?

Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus could say I and The Father are One in a sense that no one else could say it. In essence Jesus was claiming to be God and that's one of the reasons they wanted to kill him. **John 10:29-33 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one." <sup>31</sup> Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup> but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" <sup>33</sup> "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

#### 5. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

To believe in Jesus is to make a conscious decision to make Him the ruler or lord of your life. It's a belief that causes you to change the way you see yourself and the world in relationship to God.

#### 6. What causes people to be condemned?

The sins they have freely committed.

#### 7. How do you think most people intend to deal with the issue of sin in their lives at the judgment?

Most people hope to deal with their sin on a comparison scale. They will either want to compare their behavior to those who had much greater sins or they will want to weigh their good deeds with their bad deeds and hope to come out on top. The only problem is that if you measure yourself against someone else, the standard is Jesus Christ. If you try to balance your good vs your bad, you still don't know what a passing score might look like or how much a sin is worth and how much a good deed is worth.

8. Do people have to reject Jesus to be lost? Why or Why Not.

No. We are already lost. Jesus came to save us from our lost condition. Rejecting Jesus allows us to remain in the state we were in before we heard about him. The people's condition is worse now though, because they will have known the truth, and chosen to reject it.

9. How can we tell if God is at work in a person's life?

Very easily. God is always at work in a person's life. Our job is to try to get in tune with where God may already be working. It's not our job to get a person saved. Our job is to simply know that God is an option that they should consider.

10. What are the kind of circumstances God uses in the lives of unbelievers to get their attention?

Sickness, sin, losses and death will tend to catch the attention of unbelievers.

11. How can we tie into those circumstances to be used by God to make a difference in the unbeliever's life?

When people experience changes in their lives, it may be a good time for us to share with them on a deeper level what God offers to those who are surrendered to him. Knowing something about the lives of others, can help us to steer them in the right direction. A couple having marital difficulties could be directed to marriage sensation. A woman needing friends could be directed to Sisters in the Lord.

12. How many people would you like to take to heaven with you? Do your present day actions confirm your number?

## LifeSharing Lesson 3 “Balancing Fear & Love” Luke 12:4-9

### 1. What does it mean to you “to fear the Lord.”

It means being aware that God is in charge of the final consequences of whatever I choose to do on my own. I recognize there is a price to pay when I deliberately choose to ignore God’s will for my life.

### **Luke 12:4-9 Today's New International Version (TNIV)**

<sup>4</sup> “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. <sup>6</sup> Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>8</sup> “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. <sup>9</sup> But whoever publicly disowns me will be disowned before the angels of God.

### Commentary Material

**“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.”**<sup>NIV</sup> Here Jesus called his disciples “friends,” meaning that he trusted them. He explained that they might face death for their faith in him, but he also told them to *not be afraid* of people who could kill them or even of death itself. Evil people may be able to *kill the body*, but they can *do no more*. Jesus knew that fear of opposition or ridicule could weaken their witness for him because the natural human tendency is to cling to peace and comfort, even at the cost of one's walk with God. Jesus said that there is only one whom all people *should fear*—God alone. He controls eternal consequences. It is more fearful to disobey God than to face martyrdom. The worst that people can do (kill the body) does not compare with the worst that God can do. While the Greeks

believed that only the soul lived on after death, Jesus taught unmistakably that *hell* is a place of destruction for soul *and* body—the whole person.

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## LIFE APPLICATION

### HYPOCRISY

What are the signs of hypocrisy?

*I Hypocrisy is knowing the truth but not obeying it.*

Jesus repeatedly exposed the hypocritical attitudes of the religious leaders. They knew the Scriptures but did not live by them. They didn't care about *being* holy—just *looking* holy in order to receive the people's admiration and praise. Today, like the Pharisees, many people who know the Bible do not let it change their lives. They say they follow Jesus, but they don't live by his standards of love. People who live this way are hypocrites. Believers must make sure that their actions match their beliefs.

*I Hypocrisy is living a self-serving life.*

People desire positions of leadership not only in business but also in the church. It is dangerous when love for the position grows stronger than loyalty to God. This is what happened to the Pharisees and teachers of the law. Jesus is not against all leadership—Christian leaders are important—but against leadership that serves itself rather than others.

*I Hypocrisy is claiming Christ as Lord without following him.*

Jesus challenged society's norms. To him, greatness comes from serving—giving of yourself to help others. Service keeps believers aware of others' needs, and it stops them from focusing only on themselves. Jesus came as a servant. What kind of greatness do you seek?

*I Hypocrisy reduces faith to rigid rules.*

Being a religious leader in Jerusalem was very different from being a pastor in a secular society today. Israel's history, culture, and daily life centered around its relationship with God. The religious leaders were the best known, most powerful, and most respected of all leaders. Jesus made these stinging accusations because the leaders' hunger for more power, money, and status had made them lose sight of God, and their blindness was spreading to the whole nation.

*I Hypocrisy is outward conformity without inner reality.*

It's possible to obey the details of the laws but still be disobedient in general behavior. For example, a person could be very precise and faithful about giving 10 percent of his or her money to God, but refuse to give one minute of time in helping others. Tithing is important, but giving a tithe does not exempt a person from fulfilling God's other directives. The Pharisees strained their

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water so they wouldn't accidentally swallow a gnat—an unclean insect, according to the law. Meticulous about the details of ceremonial cleanliness, they nevertheless had lost their perspective on inner purity. Ceremonially clean on the outside, they had corrupt hearts. Jesus condemned the Pharisees and religious leaders for outwardly appearing saintly and holy but inwardly remaining full of corruption and greed. Living your Christianity merely as a show for others is like washing a cup on the outside only. When you are clean on the inside, your cleanliness on the outside won't be a sham.

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The word translated "hell" here is Gehenna. The name was derived from the Valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where children had been sacrificed by fire to the pagan god Molech (see [2 Kings 23:10](#); [2 Chronicles 28:3](#); [Jeremiah 7:31](#); [32:35](#)). Later, during the reign of good king Josiah, the valley had become the city's garbage dump where fire burned constantly to destroy the garbage and the worms infesting it. Gehenna, hell, is the place of fire and punishment.

Those who love God must also "fear" him; they must respect his power and stand in awe of his greatness, never taking him for granted. He makes the final decisions; he holds the judgment that will determine each person's eternal destiny.

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### WORTHWHILE

Jesus taught how valuable each person was to God. How does a person assess his or her worth? A student's worth is measured by grade point average; a pitcher's by earned run average; a career professional's by salary; a salesclerk's by commission.

God measures your worth with no number, no calculation, no ratio.

*You simply bear God's image.*

*Your life was worth God's Son.*

*Your future is in God's home.*

Tomorrow, rise from your slumber as a person filled with value, known intimately by God, destined for greatness. Shed your silly inferiorities. You are a son or daughter of the Almighty.

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**[12:6-7](#) "What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows."**<sup>NLT</sup> While Jesus' followers should "fear" God because of his awesome power, they are not to *be afraid* of him because they are *more valuable to him than a*

*whole flock of sparrows.* A person could buy *five sparrows* for a small amount of money; in economic terms, sparrows were not very valuable. They were the cheapest type of living food sold in the market; a penny was the smallest copper coin. Even so, *God does not forget a single one.* God loves his people so much that he cares about the smallest details of their lives—down to knowing the number of hairs on their heads. Jesus explained that because God is aware of everything that happens to sparrows and every tiny detail about each individual, his people need not be afraid. They are so valuable that God sent his Son to die for them ([John 3:16](#)). Because God places such value on his people, they need never fear personal threats or difficult trials. God, their Father, is in control.

A person's true value is God's estimate of that person's worth, not his or her peers'. Other people evaluate and categorize according to performance, achievement, or appearance. But God cares for all people, as he does for all of his creatures, because they belong to him. So they can face life without fear.

**[12:8-9](#) "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God."**<sup>NRSV</sup> God sent his Son to die for people worldwide, and salvation is offered to all people. But individuals still must choose whether or not to accept God's offer. Jesus clearly explained, "*Everyone who acknowledges me before others* (that is, those who publicly confess their faith in and allegiance to him), *the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God.*" The person who acknowledges faith in Jesus can trust that Jesus will acknowledge him or her as his own in heaven.

On the other hand, the person who *denies* his or her relationship to Jesus will, in turn, face denial by Jesus in heaven. These words refer to those whose lack of allegiance will be revealed under pressure. This will amount to apostasy ([1 John 2:19](#)). Most likely, this does not refer to an incident where lack of courage might cause a believer not to speak up, but rather to a person who totally rejects Christ and lives a life of denial. The astounding statement is that each person's standing before God is based on his or her relationship to Jesus Christ. He is the advocate whose intercession before God will depend on a person's faithfulness in acknowledging him.

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### DENY OR ACKNOWLEDGE?

Acknowledging Jesus demands our full allegiance to him. People deny Jesus when they hope that no one will think they are Christians, decide *not* to speak up for what is right, are silent about their relationship with God, blend into society, or accept their culture's non-Christian values.

By contrast, people acknowledge Jesus when they live moral, upright, Christ-honoring lives, look for opportunities to share their faith with others, help others in need, take a stand for justice, love others, acknowledge their loyalty to Christ, and use their lives and resources to carry out his desires rather than their own.

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Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – Luke.

## 2. How do we balance “fear the Lord” with “God loves me.”

Fearing the Lord helps to remind me of the consequences. Knowing God loves me reminds me that in this situation God really wants the best for me, even though it may be painful to follow the Lord at that moment.

## 3. How should our fear of the Lord affect our daily behaviors with others?

God is not off in space checking in on us every once and a while. God is present with us 24/7 and sees all that we do including our interaction with others. Each time we treat a person with love and respect, God immediately knows it. Each time we misuse or abuse others, God immediately knows it as well. Our walk needs to mirror walking with God regardless of who we are actually walking with.

## 4. Many people today have rejected the idea of hell in the afterlife. How do you reconcile hell with the love of God?

It was clearly God’s intention for all of us to avoid hell. Matthew 25:41 indicates that hell was created for the devil and his angels. **Matthew 25:41 (NIV)**

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. We find in John, that God is trying to do all that is possible to keep people from going to hell without taking away their freedom to choose. Hell is a place we choose because we refuse to choose God’s plan. **John 3:16-19 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

We know inside that it would be unjust for God to allow people to get away with all kinds of horrific sins. We expect there to be some kind of a judgment. The problem is that we want a type of judgment that will still allow us to make it into heaven. We want a hell that we can calculate a way to eventually get out of it if we find ourselves in it. God has loved us enough to tell us not only of the reality of hell, but also of providing a system for everyone to be able to avoid it. If God were not loving, God would have kept quiet on the existence of hell and let us blindly walk into it. The knowledge of hell, is yet another proof of the love of our God.

5. How do you reconcile the knowledge of hell with a lack of a passion to tell others about Jesus Christ?

I must say this is the most disappointing aspect of my walk in the Lord. I am too often more concerned with being called a fanatic, than I am in helping people to avoid a certain judgment. My knowledge of hell, should make me even more of a passionate evangelist, but it has not. I have become far too content with allowing others to not know about Jesus Christ. This is completely in disobedience to Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach the gospel. I guess until I choose to really love people, I will not be that concerned about the condition of their souls. I keep on believing the lie that someone else is going to share the gospel with them.

6. Why do you think God chooses to use us, His children' to make Christ known in the world when we are so reluctant to do it?

God's purpose is to make us more like Jesus Christ. God is working a work in our lives each time we share the gospel with others. God is working in our lives each time we refuse to share the gospel with others. The work that God is doing in us, is just as important as the work God wants to do through us. God chooses us because we are His children. Just as the Father sent the Son, so the Father sends us. At some point we will recognize it is a privilege and an honor to be used by God to bring others into the kingdom.

7. If someone offered you a \$100 per day to share your faith with others, would it increase the amount of sharing you do? Why or why not?

It probably would increase my sharing. My love for the money, would tend to override my inhibitions of being rejected. I would have the mindset of thinking, well I still got something for trying. I guess I care more for money, than I do in being obedient to reach others for Christ by sharing my faith. I forget that even if people reject me, I still have the reward of knowing that I was obedient to Christ.

8. What should be our motivation for sharing our faith with others?

Our motivation should be that we love God and we love people and want them to know God. Sometimes I think other motivations get in the way as well. We may see something the person has that can benefit us or our church. Sometimes we can be motivated just by the desire to tell someone we did it. Regardless of our motive, too

much is at stake for us not to publicly share our faith. I think we should just do it, and allow God to sort out our motives for a later time.

9. What do you think it means to “publicly acknowledge” Jesus before others?

To publicly acknowledge Jesus means to not only talk about Jesus, but to clearly identify that you consider yourself to be one of his disciples when put to the test. You are not only willing to speak up for what is right, but if questioned about your motive for doing so, you’re not ashamed to admit that it is because of your ties to Jesus Christ. Sometimes something as simple as wearing a button can be a public acknowledgement.

10. What are the ways in which we disown Jesus before others?

I think the most common way we disown Jesus is our failure to speak up on Jesus’s behalf. There are times when we can take positions on issues that are contrary to our faith in Christ, but we choose to speak up against them when we are asked directly “what do we think?” We can also disown Jesus when we put our own desires of pleasing ourselves, ahead of our desire to be pleasing to God. This can be in any area of our lives. It can be in our giving, in our service, in our witnessing, or in our behavior at home. If we profess one thing at church, but live another way at home, that is also a way of disowning Jesus. One can clearly see that we are deliberately rejecting the lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives. We can also disown Jesus, when we choose to laugh at that which Christ would not consider funny, but as sin. The most blatant disowning of Jesus comes when we deny knowing him because we do not want to get into trouble with those around us. A good example of this is when Peter denied Jesus three times.

11. What do you think are the rewards which come from sharing our faith with others?

People have the opportunity of coming to know Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to grow in God by becoming stronger in our faith as we share. The church has the potential of gaining new converts. We have the possibility of becoming part of the 2% of Christians who lead someone to the Lord. There is the opportunity for great rejoicing to take place in heaven. We are rewarded for being faithful in following Jesus Christ.

## LifeSharing Lesson 4 “Just Give A Person A Chance To Decide” John 1:35-51

1. If you had the privilege of leading only one person to the Lord, would it be an easy or simple choice for you to make? Why?

It would be hard for me trying to decide which person it would be. I'd hate to think that I used the choice on someone who was already coming to the Lord, when someone else I loved deeply was not on their way toward God. It would also be hard because of pride. I might get to feeling as though that person got saved, only because of me. Forgetting that all I was in the process was simply a vessel being used by God.

2. God has invited us to join Him in a process of bringing more people into the kingdom each and every day. How do you feel about God's invitation to you?

I welcome God's invitation, but I find I want the invitation to be written and carried out based on what I think should happen, rather than leaving it totally up to God. I want to be used by God, but unfortunately I want to be used how I want to be used. The thought of God using me in some way completely unexpected is a little nerve-wracking. I don't know why, I think God is going to ask something of me that I think is a little too far out there, when God is a loving God seeking my best interests.

**John 1:35-49** Today's New International Version (TNIV)

### **John's Disciples Follow Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup> The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). <sup>42</sup> And he

brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter<sup>[a]</sup>).

## Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” <sup>48</sup> “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

### Commentary Material

**John again was standing with two of his disciples.**<sup>NRSV</sup> These disciples of John the Baptist were Andrew (see [1:40](#)) and John, the writer of this Gospel. Both these men had followed John the Baptist until he pointed them to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Why did these disciples leave John the Baptist? Because that's what John wanted them to do—he was pointing the way to Jesus, the one John had prepared them to follow.

**"Behold the Lamb of God!"**<sup>NKJV</sup> This was the second time John made this declaration (see comments on [1:29](#)).

**[1:37](#) The two disciples . . . followed Jesus.**<sup>NIV</sup> These disciples followed Jesus in two ways. They literally turned and walked after him, and they also became two of Jesus' close followers, or disciples. This was a great tribute to John the Baptist's preaching—they heard John and followed Jesus.

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### TIMED RELEASE

The opportunity to be an example or leader to others has its benefits. It is affirming when people depend upon us. But if we have led someone to faith in Jesus Christ, the time will come when they must follow Jesus beyond the

influence of our relationship with them. Both mentor and disciple grow when the time for release arrives. John allowed his disciples to follow Jesus and in that act sealed his obedience to God. The disciples did follow Jesus, demonstrating that they had benefited from John's teaching.

In our relationship with other Christians, we must keep a healthy balance between dependence and independence. Mentors are helpful, but they cannot replace Jesus in our lives. We must also encourage those who follow us to keep their eyes on Christ.

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**1:38-39 Jesus . . . asked, "What do you want?"**<sup>NIV</sup> Those coming to Christ, whether for the first time or each day in worship, should ask themselves this question—"What do I want? What do I expect to receive from Jesus?"

**"Where are you staying?"**<sup>NIV</sup> This indicates that John and Andrew were serious followers. They wanted to know where to find Jesus. This indicates a commitment, not an experiment.

Curiosity about Christ or occasional spiritual interest is not enough; we must follow him for the right reasons. To follow Christ for our own purposes would be asking Christ to follow us—to align with us to support and advance our cause, not his. We must examine our motives for following him. Are we seeking his glory or ours?

You are standing in front of God and in the presence of the hosts of angels. The Holy Spirit is about to impress his seal on each of your souls. You are about to be pressed into the service of the great king.

*Cyril of Jerusalem*

**They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.**<sup>NRSV</sup> John recalls the exact time he first stayed with Jesus. It must have been a special opportunity for John and Andrew—a time never to be forgotten. We can only imagine their wonder as they spent those hours alone with Jesus. From this time forward, these two men became his followers.

**1:40-42 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah."**<sup>NIV</sup> After spending a day with Jesus, Andrew immediately went to find his brother Simon (who would later be named Peter) and tell him that he had found the *Messiah* (the Hebrew term), or "the Christ" (the Greek translation of "Messiah," meaning "Anointed One"; see [Isaiah 61:1](#)).

**He brought Simon to Jesus.**<sup>NRSV</sup>

Andrew appears two more times in this Gospel; each time he is bringing people to Jesus (see [6:4-9](#); [12:20-22](#)). The idea that we must somehow convince people

Dost thou live close by them, or meet them in the streets, or labour with them, or travel with them, or sit

about Jesus places too much importance on what we say and do. We must trust God's Spirit to work in a person and understand that our part may be little more than bringing that person into contact with Jesus. The question "What do you think of Jesus?" ought to fit in our conversations.

and talk with them, and say nothing to them of their souls, or the life to come? If their houses were on fire, thou wouldst run and help them; and wilt thou not help them when their souls are almost at the fire of hell?

*Richard Baxter*

**Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).**<sup>NIV</sup> Jesus changed Simon's name to *Cephas*, the Aramaic word for "stone," because Jesus foresaw that Peter would become a pillar and a foundation stone in the building of the first-century church (see [Matthew 16:16-18](#); [Galatians 2:9](#); [Ephesians 2:20](#); [1 Peter 2:4-5](#)).

**1:43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."**<sup>NIV</sup> Jesus' first two disciples (Andrew and John) sought out Jesus. Andrew brought the third disciple, Peter, to Jesus. Jesus sought out the fourth disciple, Philip. Jesus looked for him, found him, and called him to follow.

**1:44-46 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.**<sup>NIV</sup> This tells us that Philip must have known Andrew and Peter before he began to follow Jesus.

**Philip found Nathanael.**<sup>NIV</sup> Earlier, Andrew had found Simon (his brother) and had brought him to Jesus. Philip does the same with Nathanael.

In the list of disciples in the other Gospels, Philip and Bartholomew are listed together ([Matthew 10:3](#); [Mark 3:18](#)); here, Philip and Nathanael are paired up. Thus, it stands to reason that, since Bartholomew is not mentioned in the fourth Gospel and Nathanael is not mentioned in the synoptic Gospels, Nathanael is none other than Bartholomew.

**"We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."**<sup>NIV</sup> In saying *we*, Philip was probably referring to himself, Andrew, and Peter. If this was the case, the first five disciples (John, Andrew, Peter, Philip, and Nathanael) may have been acquainted or even friends. What a delightful experience for a Christian to witness a circle of friends or to see a family be drawn to Jesus.

The language referring to Jesus as *the one Moses wrote about* indicates that Philip was also a thoughtful seeker—one who read the Old Testament Scriptures and was looking for the Messiah. Moses had written about the Messiah in the Law (see [Deuteronomy 18:15-18](#)), and the prophets had foretold his coming.

*The son of Joseph* refers to Jesus' family line; in other words, this was how Jesus was known among the people (see [Luke 3:23](#)—it was supposed that Jesus was Joseph's son). In reality, Jesus was not Joseph's son; he was (and is) God's Son.

**"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"**<sup>NIV</sup> Nathanael's statement does not necessarily mean that there was anything wrong with the town. Nazareth was possibly despised by the Jews because a Roman army garrison was located there. Some have speculated that an aloof attitude or a poor reputation in morals and religion on the part of the people of Nazareth led to Nathanael's harsh comment. Nathanael's hometown was Cana, about four miles from Nazareth.

Nathanael's expression seems to indicate that he did not expect that anything related to God's purpose could come from that place because Nazareth is not mentioned in the Old Testament. The prophets, moreover, never said that the Messiah would come from Nazareth. The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)); and, in fact, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But his parents' flight to Egypt and soon return to Galilee, where Jesus was raised, gave Jesus the reputation of being a Galilean, even a Nazarene. This was offensive to many Jews because they could not accept a Messiah who had not come from Bethlehem.

**"Come and see."**<sup>NIV</sup> Philip chose the best alternative. He did not argue with Nathanael about Jesus; he brought him to Jesus. Fortunately for Nathanael, he went to meet Jesus and became a disciple. If he had stuck to his prejudice without investigating further, he would have missed the Messiah! We must not let people's stereotypes about Christ cause them to miss his power and love. We must invite them to come and meet Jesus themselves.

**[1:47](#) When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."**<sup>NIV</sup> Jesus' statement about Nathanael reveals that Nathanael was an honest man. The Greek word for *false*, also translated "guile" (*dolos*), means "deceit, cunning, falsehood." Nathanael was void of such characteristics.

Jesus' direct, intimate knowledge of him must have taken Nathanael by surprise. He was not offended, just intensely curious. If we remember that God's grace and love come to us even though he knows all about us, we may find ourselves being even more grateful to him.

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### GOD KNOWS

Jesus knew about Nathanael before the two ever met. Jesus also knows what we are really like. An honest person will feel comfortable with the thought that

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Jesus knows him or her through and through. A dishonest person will feel uncomfortable. We can't pretend to be something we're not. God knows who we really are and wants *us* to follow him.

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**[1:48](#) "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."<sup>NIV</sup>**

Here Jesus unveiled his omniscience to Nathanael. Jesus had been aware of Nathanael's exact location before Philip called him. According to Jewish tradition, the expression "to sit under the fig tree" was a euphemism for meditating on the Scriptures. Thus, Jesus had seen Nathanael studying the Scriptures before Philip had called him to come and see Jesus.

The early disciples of Jesus were well versed in the Scriptures. Life in the small towns of Israel revolved around the synagogue, where the Old Testament was constantly read, taught, and argued. Unlike many of the studied religious leaders of the day, these simple men understood the Scriptures, and knew what to look for. So when the Messiah came, they recognized him!

**[1:49](#) "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"<sup>NRSV</sup>**

Instantaneously, Nathanael realizes that Jesus is *the Son of God* (see [Psalm 2:7](#)) and *the King of Israel* (see [Psalm 2:6](#); [Zephaniah 3:15](#)).

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### LIFE APPLICATION

#### GET TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

These new disciples used several names for Jesus: Lamb of God ([1:36](#)), Rabbi ([1:38](#)), Messiah ([1:41](#)), Son of God ([1:49](#)), and King of Israel ([1:49](#)). As they got to know Jesus, their appreciation for him grew. The more time we spend getting to know Christ, the more we will understand and appreciate who he is. We may be drawn to him for his teaching, but we too will come to know him as the Son of God.

Although in just a few days these disciples began regularly calling Jesus the Son of God, they would not fully understand him until three years later ([Acts 2](#)). What they so easily professed had to be worked out in experience. We may also find that words of faith come easily, but deep appreciation for Christ comes from living by faith.

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**[1:50-51](#) "You shall see greater things than that. . . . You shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."<sup>NIV</sup>** Jesus now speaks to all the disciples there present. He tells that they would hereafter see the angels ascending and descending upon him, the Son of Man (a messianic title, see

[Daniel 7:13](#)). As students of the Old Testament, his disciples would have realized that Jesus was alluding to Jacob's vision of the ladder connecting heaven to earth (see [Genesis 28:12ff.](#)). Jacob had left home, having lied to his father and cheated his brother of the birthright. Yet in his dream Jacob saw a vision of angels ministering to him. If God could reveal himself to a sinner like Jacob, surely he could reveal himself in an even greater way to Nathanael. To Nathanael and the others, the heavens would be opened—i.e., they would be given insight into the things of heaven ([Acts 10:11](#); [Rev. 4:1](#); [19:11](#)). Furthermore, they would realize that Jesus, as the Son of Man, was the vehicle of communication between heaven and earth. Just as God had appointed Jacob to be the father of the twelve tribes (under the new name Israel), God had appointed Jesus to be the founder of the new spiritual kingdom.

Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible Commentary – John.

### 3. Why do you think Andrew immediately sought after Peter?

Andrew wanted to share the joy of what he had discovered with someone close to him. He and Peter were brothers. He wanted his brother to discover what he had discovered. He was moved with love.

### 4. Could Andrew have known the impact Peter would have on the church? Why or Why not?

There is no way that Andrew could have known the role God intended for Peter to have in the building of the church. It was probably a surprise to him for Jesus to immediately tell Simon, that his name would be changed to Peter which means the Rock. Andrew was expecting Jesus to be with them forever as the Messiah. He just wanted Peter to know the Messiah. Andrew could not have even known about the future existence of the church. When we lead a person to Christ, we have no idea how God is going to use that person in the expansion of the kingdom of God. You can look at yourself and be amazed at how God has used you.

5. When you see people who are unsaved, are you more likely to see them as part of the enemy's camp or as future servants in the life of the church? Why do you see them as you do.

I am beginning to see people more as part of the future part of the kingdom of God. God obviously sees those in the world as potential parts of the kingdom of God. That's why God sent Jesus into the world. The Scriptures says, God so loved the world. God knows what He has called each and every person to do and to be. It's up to us to say yes to the will of God in our lives. It takes a lot longer for some people to open their eyes to the truth or to surrender their lives to Christ. But the Bible also teaches that God is patient, not wanting any to perish. **2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God wants people to be saved.

6. How was Phillip like Andrew?

Phillip immediately went looking for a friend to share about Jesus Christ. As Andrew went to Peter, Phillip went to Nathaniel.

7. How was Nathaniel unlike Peter in his initial response to the message about Jesus?

Nathaniel was not at all impressed with Phillip's testimony. He even discounted it by asking if it were even possible for anything good to come out of Nazareth. Peter seemed eager to know more. Nathaniel seemed more content with holding on to what he had.

8. Why do different people respond differently to our attempts to share our faith? Should this encourage or discourage us.

People respond differently to us based on where they are at a given moment in time. They may not be at the right place emotionally or spiritually to hear our message. A person's past or present can influence their openness to the gospel. This should

encourage us because it lets us know that it's not always a rejection of us as a person to which they are responding. We simply have to give them the space they need. Perhaps the next time we share, or the next believer that God sends into their lives will be able to have a greater impact. Remember, it's not up to us to get people to make a decision for Christ. We simply want to leave people a little closer to God than when we had first met them.

9. Do you agree that there is a best way to tell others about Christ? Why or why not?

I don't think there is a best way to tell others about Christ. The best way is going to depend on who the person is that's listening and what it is that person is going through. Jesus told the woman caught in adultery to go and sin no more. He did not have to say that to Zaccheus. On his own initiative Zaccheus made it clear, he was not going to do what he had been doing. Jesus told the rich ruler, he would have to make a decision on the spot between his wealth and following Jesus. It is good for us all to know how to lead a person to give their life to Christ and why it is that Jesus died for us. We don't have to know all the right bible verses and where they are located. A person can give his/her life to Christ and then learn what it is to truly know Jesus. That's why the church is here.

10. How does God's placement of us in places we would rather not be in, intersect with the building of the kingdom of God.

Our lives are not about us, but about God's eternal plan. God puts us in strategic places not only for our growth, but to have an impact in the lives of others. We do not know who is looking at us trying to decide if God is real. The way we handle certain circumstances is why some people become more open to the gospel. Someone may have been praying for God to put us where we are so that their son or daughter could come into contact with other Christians to be saved.

11. Is telling others about what God has done a spiritual gift or a choice on our part? Why do you think so?

We all have a testimony of what God has done in our lives. It is a choice on our part to tell others that testimony. There are some people whom God has given the gift of evangelism who are very effective in leading others to Christ. Spiritual gifts can be built upon and improved. A person with the gift of preaching, becomes a better preacher with prayer, with classes, with attending conferences, and with continuous educational growth. A person can build upon the skill of sharing their testimony and telling others about God through the same means.

12. What do you think God needs to do in you, to help you be more willing to tell others about God?

God needs to work in me a stronger belief that people do need the Lord for their lives right now and I may be keeping someone out of the kingdom in order to protect my pride and self image.