

# Prepare To Meet God By Doing This One Thing

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*The Life and Teachings of Jesus, Lesson 12*

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## Prepared to meet your Maker?

In the previous message, I described the witness of John the Baptist. He was the prophetic voice in the wilderness preparing the way for the Lord. Ever since the foundation of the world, souls have been called to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

How do you prepare to meet the Lord? John's message was, repent. The title for this lesson is, Prepare To Meet God By Doing This One Thing.

## John Was Great In God's Eyes

John pointed others to Christ. Preparing others to meet their Savior was his sole purpose in life. Does this sound important to you? It is. Luke 1:15 says, "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." In God's eyes, John was great.

## Are You Great In God's Eyes?

Would you like to be great in the sight of the Lord? Would you like for God to look at you and say well done thou good and faithful servant? Every soul is precious to Him. To Him, every soul was worth dying for. But to be great in the sight of the Lord is different.

John was great in the sight of the Lord because he was faithful to fulfill His calling. God called him, filled him with the Holy Spirit, and commissioned him to prepare others to receive the Messiah. John chose to surrender to God's calling. He was truly a great man of God.

Ro 10:13–15, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Just like John, God has called each of us who have believed in Him (2 Cor 5:17-20). He has sealed us with His Spirit at the moment of salvation (Eph 4:30), and has filled us with

empowerment from His Spirit when we were baptized as an act of obedience (Acts 1:8). Then He commissioned us to preach the Gospel.

We have decided to follow Jesus. Or have we? This is a question to talk to God about personally.

## The Call of God

God's call to salvation, to eternal life, and to heaven is a universal call.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This literally means the world of all people. God's love is infinite in magnitude. There is no limit. It is boundless love for every soul ever born, past, present, and future.

2Pe 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

1Ti 2:4 expresses God's desire, saying, "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Mt 11:28 says, "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Anyone who wants to be delivered from the burden of sin can come to Jesus for relief. He will not turn away.

God wants every sinner to repent. Eze 18:32 says, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn [yourselves], and live ye." The death of every sinner is undesired. It is not pleasant to the lord. It is not His will. Yet, it does occur.

Who is a sinner? Romans 3:23 makes clear that everyone is a sinner, saying, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:10 says, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."

The great commission Christ gave to His church in Mr 16:15 says, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The Gospel is for every creature. This says every created thing. This certainly means every human being, without exception. Why is the commission to preach the Gospel to every human? Every human is a sinner and every human needs to be saved. God desires that none should perish. He wants every soul to be saved. This is God's will.

## The will of God versus the will of man

Some teach and others wonder whether the will of a sovereign God could be resisted. If God's will be to save someone, how could they resist? Can the **finite will** of a created being be greater than the infinite will of God? Is it possible for a finite will to dominate an infinite will?

The answer is God's sovereign and infinite will is for every soul to make their own choice. The sovereign will of God is for every soul to choose to believe His promise. Freewill of every soul is God's infinite, sovereign will.

Some think God is not sovereign enough to allow freewill. Some think God can only be sovereign if He imposes His will and desires on others. If this were the case, there would be no will to oppose Him. God's will would always be done.

If there were opposition, it would only exist because it would be God's will to make it exist. This means that God would oppose Himself. Of course, this makes no sense. And yet some believe this to be the case. They dismiss such absurdities with the statement, "God's way is beyond our understanding." This is really nothing more than a statement to excuse belief in absurd and irrational doctrines.

In Mt 23:37, Jesus said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, [thou] that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under [her] wings, and ye would not!" How is it that Israel resisted the will of God and rejected Jesus, their Messiah, despite God's will to gather them to Himself? Jesus makes clear that God's desire was resisted and rejected by Israel.

The finite will of men did not overpower and dominate the sovereign will of God. God's sovereign will is that everyone has the freewill to choose. God desires for everyone to be saved. His will is that none should perish, but most do anyway. They choose their destiny. God's will is that everyone believes in Him and trusts Him. His will is for every soul to be saved. But He does not make the decision for us, and He does not overwhelm our will to conform to His.

## Chosen before the foundation of the world

God has always wanted to bless every soul. God's will has never changed and never will. The Gospel of salvation for everyone has been a part of God's will before the world was created. Every thought and desire God has today was a thought and desire He had in eternity past. Everything God does today was already done in eternity past. Time is not a constraint on God. He is timeless and the Creator of time. Thus, He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. God is unchanging. It is no surprise then that His message is unchanging and has been the same and will always be the same.

Paul wrote in Titus 1:1, "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." God's promise preceded the physical creation and the creation of human souls.

Luke 1:70 says, "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began." There has only been one Gospel message of God for humanity. There has never been a different message at different times in history for different groups of people.

There is one God with one message for one problem. Sin is the problem. The Gospel declares the loving promise of God to deliver everyone from sin. God desires that none to sin or to perish.

Speaking of Jesus' ascension, Peter said in Acts 3:21, "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Who are the elect referred to in Titus 1:1? The elect are all those selected by God based on one criterion, belief in Him. In John 3:15, Jesus states the condition, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name."

In John 6:47, Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

In John 11:26, Jesus said, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Interestingly, there is a second, but obvious condition. To be saved, you must be living physically to believe unto salvation. After physical death, it is too late.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Just as we elect officials to govern the land in America according to our preferences and criteria, God elects souls to save based on His preference and condition, namely, believe in Him.

Some think that being elected must be without a condition. This is yet another false doctrine that imposes restriction and constraint on our sovereign God. Our great God can set any condition He desires. And He has. He is a sovereign God who has decided to require the condition of believing in Him.

And another important thing to note is He makes His condition known through His Word. There is no guessing or wondering whether you may or may not be elected. If you want to be selected by God as one of His own and be received into His kingdom, just believe Him. Just accept His invitation and believe His promise to save you as you are.

I do not mean to imply that we tell God what to do or demand that He save us because we believe. He tells us what to do. If you want to be selected by God, and be called one of His elect, you must accept His invitation because He makes it available to accept. His invitation and condition are that we believe to be saved. The choice to believe is up to us. If you want to be saved, you must do it His way. And if you believe, you will be saved, from the moment you believe into eternity. That's God's way. It is His promise.

Jesus said in John 3:18, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Sin causes death and condemnation. Belief is the remedy. If you refuse to believe Him, you will be condemned due to your sins. The only remedy is to repent from unbelief in His way to belief.

Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." The law of sin and death is expressed in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

First John 5:13 says, "He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." There is no need to wonder if you are saved when you believe. You can know you are saved. If you believe in God's promise, you know you are saved. If you are not sure about God's promise, then you are not sure about your salvation.

One day, you will meet Jesus face to face. One day, it could be today, your eternal destiny will be fixed forever. Jesus will either be your Savior now or your Judge later. The choice is yours. Do you want a Savior, or do you want a judge?

As your Savior, Jesus has paid for your sins and imputes to you His righteousness to make your relationship with Him permanent. As your judge, Jesus will require that you pay for your own sins. He leaves the choice up to you. Our sovereign God will not unethically or immorally impose His will on you. He has chosen, by His sovereign will, to allow you to make your own choice.

Are you prepared to meet Jesus as your Savior? Believe in Him. Believe in His loving promise to save you. Believe His will is the only will that is right for your life.

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