

LIFE OF FAITH.

Mr K Gerner BA

Audio Visual Ministries
P.O.Box 1 NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0EP N Ireland

Lesson 5.THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST

(i) HIS TEACHING

(1) ANXIETY about clothes & food

MAT 6:25 NIV "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

MAT 6:26 NIV Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. do not labour or spin.29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith ? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

DO NOT WORRY IN THE STORM

MAT 8:23 NIV Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.

(2) ACCEPTING LIMITATIONS ON GOD'S POWER

MAR 9:23 NIV " 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

LUK 18:37 NIV They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

(3) Allowing your trust to be placed in men

JOH 2:24 NIV But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men.

(4) ASKING TO SEE BEFORE YOU BELIEVE

JOH 20:29 NIV Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

NOBLEMAN BELIEVED BEFORE HE SAW

JOH 4:48 NIV "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."

(5) ARGUING FROM IGNORANCE OF THE BIBLE

MAT 22:29 NIV Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

(6) ASSURING YOURSELF OF EARTHLY RESOURCES

MAT 6:19 NIV "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

B. TRUE FAITH IS SHOWN BY :-

(1) REMOVING FROM EARTHLY SECURITY in obedience to God's command

MAT 14:28 NIV "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

(2) REBUKING AND COMMANDING with authority

LUK 17:6 NIV He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

(3) REMEMBERING PAST MIRACLES

MAT 16:8 NIV Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?"

(4) RESTING IN PEACE WHEN THE ANSWER IS DELAYED

JOH 11:21 NIV "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

C. CONDITIONS OF LIVING THE LIFE OF FAITH shown by Christ, include:

(1) SUPREME LOVE FOR CHRIST

LUK 14:26 NIV "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.

MAT 6:33 NIV But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

(2) SELF DENIAL

MAT 16:24 NIV Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

(3) SEEKING HONOUR FROM GOD ONLY

JOH 5:44 NIV How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God ?

(4) STARTING TO BELIEVE WHEN GOD SPEAKS

MAR 11:24 NIV Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

(5) STANDING IN TIME OF TESTING

LUK 8:13 NIV Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

(6) TRUST IN SCRIPTURES

JOH 5:46 NIV If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

(7) SEPARATION NEEDED FROM THE WORLD

Rulers needed to take open stand

JOH 12:42 NIV Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;⁴³ for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

(8) SPIRIT LEADING & PROPHECY INCREASES FAITH

JOH 14:29 NIV I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

(9) SELLING ALL SECURITIES

LUK 12:33 NIV Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

D. CHRIST TAUGHT THE CRISIS OF A CALLING TO THIS LIFE

This is set out in Luke 9:57-62:

(1) Mr TOO QUICK "ANYWHERE"

(2) Mr TOO SLOW "ME FIRST..."

(3) Mr TOO EASY. "I WILL FOLLOW ..BVT.."

LUK 9:57 NIV As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

COUNT THE COST BEFORE COMMITMENT

LUK 14:28 NIV "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?"

(ii) EXAMPLE OF CHRIST IN LIFE OF FAITH

(A) CHRIST HAD POOR HOME and even at 12 put call of God first

LUK 2:49 NIV "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

(B) NOT ONLY BELIEVED GOD FOR HIMSELF BUT TOOK OTHERS INTO HIS PARTY

(i) Refused Satanic temptation to use miracles to meet own needs

(ii) Angels ministered to Him as He submitted to God

MAR 1:12 NIV At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,

MAR 1:13 NIV and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

(iii) Sent out 12 with no provision for extra money

LUK 22:35 NIV Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered.

MAT 12:46 NIV While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him.⁴⁷ Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." ⁴⁸ He replied to them, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers."⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother. No support from his own family who rejected His ministry

D. NOBODY WAS CHARGED FOR HIS MINISTRY

MAT 10:7 NIV *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'*

MAT 10:8 NIV *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*__

TRAVELLING WOMEN SUPPORTED HIM

LUK 8:1 NIV *After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him,² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means*

DID ACCEPT HOSPITALITY FOR HIMSELF AND HIS DISCIPLES

cf Zacchaeus

LUK 19:5 NIV *When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."*_

E. CHRIST GAVE TO POOR AND NEEDY because He came as a servant

(i) *JOH 13:5 NIV* After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

(ii) NO EXPENSIVE ORGANISATION OR BUILDING

F. NO APPEALS FOR MONEY

Christ guided by Holy Ghost in His asking

EXERCISE No 5

(1) IN YOUR OWN WORDS, GIVE CHRIST'S TEACHING FROM :

(A) Luke 6:38 (B) Matthew 6:38 (C) Luke 12:7 (D) Luke 18:29-30 (E) Matthew 5:42

(2) GIVE COMMENTS, COMMENDATIONS, PROMISES AND COMMANDS OF CHRIST from:

(a) Luke 21:3 (b) Mark 14:6 (c) Luke 14:44 (d) Mark 10:30 (e) John 14:1
Send answers with s.a.e. to AVM, Mourne Training Centre, PO Box 1
NEWCASTLE Co Down.BT33 0EP N.Ireland

—