

Born with Identity Part 20: All-Out! *Slide Notations*

Jesus... The core of born-again identity! *The identity of the core of Life Church!* Has always been God's only standard!
This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased! **Mt 3.17, 17.5 Col 1.19** He is the "Protos!" **R8.29 Col 1.15** He is God's one goal for us! **R8.29**

Jesus... He is also the only standard we have in Christianity! (solves so many issues)
"We strive for *His perfection 1P2.21-23* and settle for excellence" **Phil 3.14,15** All others "stands" compromises/flesh!

If you are *moving towards* Christ, that's good enough for us, for anybody, because not one of us is going to fully attain – but it is part of our identity to *strive*...

But if that's not your goal, if you have "stops," if it's not your desire to have God's will for your life you will find no peace here!

We are called to live the lifestyle of God, to not be deceived about ourselves, to be all-in and go all-out for God's will and purposes!

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only, or you are simply deceiving yourself!" James 1.22

Caveat 1... Couldn't have delivered this message, this way, 20 years ago... Spoken the principle by faith... but missing one key ingredient... Closeness to the moment! *Consequently, the very people who need to hear it the most may not be able to...* But it needs to be on the table!

Caveat 2... Really dislike this type of message... *Because of the opportunities to be misunderstood, or worse, misperceived!* Analogies make misdirection possible... \$\$ illustrations because we understand financial things... Misdirection that it is about money... Don't want your money – want you to be rich in good works/rewards!

Caveat 3... When we use the terms, single-hearted, or simple-minded... Seem small, narrow, pluralistic society! Lame, unsophisticated complex times! Was a time when the simple life was a prized goal! When singleness of heart was a great character trait/commodity!

So, what if we really believed what we say we believe... How single-hearted would we live if we believed there was "no mission but God's mission...?"

What would you do if you "woke up" with a realization that you spent most of your life doing, wanting, getting the wrong things and almost out of time to make it right?

If we really believed we are living for another day, and, that we are approaching that day with a short-fall of preparation, would we go "all-out?"

Pages of the Bible... *Business people walked away from their trades to follow Jesus!* (heart/affection).

And walking by Simon and Andrew, James and John, fishermen by trade, He called out and said, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men, and immediately they left their nets and followed! **Mt4.18-22** And Saul, trembling and astonished said, Lord what do you want me to do? **A9.6 Matthew Mt9.9** Bartimaeus **Mk10.52** The Seventy **Lk9.57-10.1**

Pages of the Bible... *They took time off to hear Him speak!* (time/attention)

"And they saw Him departing by ship and outran them along the shore... and they were about 5,000 men..." **Mk6.33-44** "I have compassion on the multitude because they have been w/Me three days and have nothing to eat/4,000..." **Mk8.1-9**

Weren't asking, when will this be over so I can get back to business of life...Believed He had the words of life and they wanted to live!

Pages of the Bible... *When He was gone, they came together to reach the world around them!* (salvation/compassion)

After they received power they went as witnesses to the streets, the region, the next states and the whole world!
A1.8 And they met at church daily and ate together in their homes with gladness and singleness of heart... and the Lord added to them daily! **A2.42-47**

Pages of the Bible... They gave, miraculously/work! (\$\$\$)

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul... Nothing they had, owned them any more... Everyone was enabled for the mission because as many as had “extra’s” sold it and brought it to the Apostles for strategic distribution... **Acts 4.31-37**

Asides... Neither communism or commune-ism... Not legislation to equalize wealth, nor unloading possessions to live in a tent! An instant of equipping all for the work... It was a revelation of *redemption*; for lost time and ill-focused pursuits/heart... A spontaneous action; selling/giving their extra stuff for *redemptions*! “Making friends for themselves w/the mammon of unrighteousness in eternal habitations.” **Lk16.9**

The people there were not selling out and joining the poor in their poverty! Christianity is not a “poor faith” though it is good news for the poor! Resources are from God who owns all things including what we think we own! It is a lifestyle of trust, miracle provision, of power to be free from cares of this world! **Mt6.24-34 10.7,9-13, Lk10.4-10** **These folks were sold out, all-out, for the kingdom of Heaven!**

Personal Asides... I was radically saved/loved very much... But I didn’t get this concept until too late! I have misspent so much money in my lifetime... On stuff I no longer have/wouldn’t want. I know the “laying up in store” verses well: **Mt6.15-34, 19.21 Lk12.-33 1T6.6ff** But as a younger man, have blown thousands/kingdom opportunities!

If someone could have just told me... Making sure I understood... My real life was coming, this life is for compounding savings—interest/heaven. Would have done things so differently! Bible acknowledges our need for food, clothing, shelter, education... Encourages us to spend the rest on the kingdom... To spend less on ourselves than/given...

If we really believe He is real; He is walking with us thru this temporary life; bringing us home; He will reward us for our labors; that we will rule and reign with Him forever... Then we would throw out our wish lists, our bucket lists, our pursuit of anything that is more than what we need... TO INVEST IN THE SUREST DEAL EVER!

“Godliness w/contentment-great gain!” Foundation is full/fireproof! **1C3.12ff**

Pages of the Bible... Worked tirelessly! (regenerate energy)

Seeing we have this ministry...we faint not; we operate from an earthen vessel, we are troubled, distressed, perplexed, in despair, persecuted, cast down and pained... but we faint not! **2C4.1-18** Let this mind be in you that was in Christ; obedient unto death/then exalted! Ph2.8,9 Blessed is the servant the Lord finds working when He comes! **Mt24.46**

Pages of the Bible... Took a beating for their faith rather than compromise/testimony! (courage) Acts!

Want you to know, up front, deciding to follow God with your whole heart... costs! People you never would imagine – become critics/detractors! **Mt10.36** “Live on the Bible, go to church more than 2x month, give tithe, serve, claim Jesus is the only way, love God most – cult!”

And they called Paul: the “ringleader of the sect” –”spoken against everywhere!” A28.22

Would you love it... if you were so all-in... that the secular and sacred culture around you, confused you, with the One and only Leader of our faith?