LESSON FIVE - A Lesson on Priorities

**MATTHEW 16:21-27**

**Jesus Foretells His Death**

**21**From that time [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23694a)]Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. **22**Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23695b)]God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23695c)]happen to You.” **23**But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23696d)]God’s interests, but man’s.”

**Discipleship Is Costly**

**24**Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **25**For whoever wishes to save his [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23698e)]life will lose it; but whoever loses his [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23698f)]life for My sake will find it. **26**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? **27**For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23700g)]repay every man according to his [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+16%3A21-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23700h)]deeds.

**Overview**

Priorities are an integral part of daily existence. The Lord Jesus set the example of placing the will of God first and foremost in His life, and in this lesson, we will see His forceful rebuke of Peter's seemingly well-meaning attempt to get Him off track from His duty to God and fallen mankind.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that God has a fundamental purpose for every person's life.

2. Realize that self-denial is a requirement of following God's purpose.

3. Choose to place God's will as first priority in their lives.

**Teaching Outline**

**1. Devotion to Duty**

A. Jesus had to go.

B. Jesus had to die.

**2. Distraction from Duty**

A. Peter gave a rebuke.

B. Peter got a rebuke.

**3. Denial for Duty**

A. Don't live for today.

B. Do live for tomorrow.

**JOHN 4:34 -** Jesus \*said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

**LUKE 2:49 -** And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE2%3A49&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25023a)]*house*?”

**JOHN 17:4 - 4**I glorified You on the earth, [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JOHN+17%3A4&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26764a)]having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

**LUKE 9:51 -** When the days were approaching for His [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+9%3A51&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25353a)]ascension, He [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+9%3A51&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25353b)]was determined to go to Jerusalem;

**JOHN 16:33 -** These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

**2 TIMOTHY 3:12 -** Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

**2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 - 3**Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4**No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**HEBREWS 9:22 -** And according to the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+9%3A22&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30128a)]Law, *one may* almost *say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

**ROMANS 5:8-10 - 8**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9**Much more then, having now been justified [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS+5%3A8-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28057a)]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. **10**For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ROMANS+5%3A8-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-28058b)]by His life.

**JOHN 12:23-24 - 23**And Jesus \*answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**MATTHEW 26:53-54 - 53**Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+26%3A53-54&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24108a)]legions of angels? **54**How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, *which say* that it must happen this way?”

**ISAIAH 53:4-10**

Surely our [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18716a)]griefs He Himself bore, And our [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18716b)]sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18716c)]Smitten of God, and afflicted. **5**But He was [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18717d)]pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18717e)]well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. **6**All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18718f)]fall on Him. **7**He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

**8**By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18720g)]living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*? **9**His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. **10**But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18722h)]putting *Him* to grief; If [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18722i)]He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* [[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18722j)]offspring,

He will prolong *His* days, And the [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+53%3A4-10&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-18722k)]good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

**PROVERBS 4:20-27**

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. **21**Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. **22**For they are life to those who find them And health to all [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+4%3A20-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16513a)]their body. **23**Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life. **24**Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+4%3A20-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16515b)]speech far from you.

**25**Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PROVERBS+4%3A20-27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-16516c)]gaze be fixed straight in front of you. **26**Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established. **27**Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

**JEREMIAH 17:9 -** “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

**PROVERBS 3:5-7 -** Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. **6**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. **7**Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

**JAMES4:7 -** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**EPHESIANS 4:27 -** and do not give the devil [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+4%3A27&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29300a)]an opportunity.

**PROVERBS 9:8-9 -** Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you. **9**Give *instruction* to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase *his* learning.

**PSALM 16:8 -** I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**GALATIANS 2:20 - 20**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+2%3A20&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29102a)]the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15 - 14**For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15**and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

**GALATIANS 5:24 -** Now those who [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=GALATIANS+5%3A24&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29187a)]belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**LUKE 12:16-21 - 16**And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. **17**And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ **18**Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19**And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.”’ **20**But God said to him, ‘You fool! This *very* night [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=LUKE+12%3A16-21&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-25480a)]your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?’ **21**So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

**JAMES 4:14 - 14**[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30352a)]Yet you do not know [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=JAMES+4%3A14&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30352b)]what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

**PSALM 90:10, 12 -** 10As for the days of our [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+90%3A10-+12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-15389a)]life, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+90%3A10-+12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-15389b)]they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years,

Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away. **12**So teach us to number our days, That we may [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PSALM+90%3A10-+12&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-15391e)]present to You a heart of wisdom.

**MARK 8:34-37 - 34**And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **35**For whoever wishes to save his [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+8%3A34-37&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24536a)]life will lose it, but whoever loses his [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MARK+8%3A34-37&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-24536b)]life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. **36**For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? **37**For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**JOHN 6:27 - 27**Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

**MATTHEW 6:31-33 - 31**Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ **32**For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33**But [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316a)]seek first [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316b)]His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316c)]added to you.

**JOHN 6:38 -** For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

**MEMORY VERSE**

But [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316a)]seek first [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316b)]His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+6%3A31-33&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-23316c)]added to you.

MATTHEW 6:33

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1 What did Jesus say to Peter? (Get behind me satan - you are a stumbling block)

2 What or who are the 'stumbling blocks' in your life?

3 When we live for the moment, what do we really have once it is over?

4 In the grand scheme of things, according to James 4:14, our life on earth is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

5 When we live for the moment, what do we really have once it is over? (JAMES 4:14)

6 Are you wisely investing the talents and resources the Lord has given you?

7 Today, how are you serving others?

8 What should be our greatest desire?