



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
MARCH LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES

"Called to Commitment"

Rev. Leon Perry, III., Senior Servant

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Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church Ministry of Biblical Study Classes March 6, 2024

"Called to Commitment: Are You Committed?"

Commitment is a popular word in religious circles. But don't forget that commitment is a two-edged sword. When you commit yourself to God, you commit yourself to obey Him -- with commitment comes responsibility.

What is Commitment?

In simplest terms, a commitment is "something pledged."

A parent promises to give a child candy after dinner -- that is a commitment. A girl promises to go on a date with a boy -- that is a commitment. God promises eternal life to the faithful -- that is a commitment.

Our Commitment to Jesus

Although the word commitment does not appear in the Bible, Jesus reveals our commitment as His disciples. "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Lk. 14:26-27).

We must love Jesus above everything and everyone on earth -- we must put Him first. Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul" (Matt. 16:24-26)?

Jesus' Was Committed Upon Earth

Jesus requires a total, complete, sacrificial commitment from people who desire to be His disciples. But at the same time, Jesus has shown us the way to salvation by living the committed life He requires of us.

Jesus is therefore a sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16), leaving us an example of total commitment to God, "Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in turn; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:22-23).

Thus, Jesus demonstrated commitment. He committed Himself to God by living righteously, and by suffering in order to bear our sins upon the cross -- by His stripes we've been healed (1 Pet. 2:24).

Jesus Committed Himself to God in Death

With His last words and final breaths, Jesus committed Himself to God -- complete and endless commitment while suffering on the cross.

Moments before giving up His spirit, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit" (Lk. 23:46). He committed Himself to God, who judges righteously (1 Pet. 2:23).

Jesus Has Shown Us The Way

Jesus has shown us the way to salvation. "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:9) -- "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

We're committed to either Jesus or the world.

To whom are you committed? Are you committed to Christ? Have you entrusted yourself to God?

If I'm committed to God:

I'll put Him first.

I'll serve Him in everything I do.

I'll entrust myself to Him and His judgment.

I'll busily work in His kingdom, without distraction from the world.

I'll trust Him, rather than worry about things I can't control.

I'll cast my cares upon Him, and trust Him to deal with my problems.

I won't be afraid to die -- God will take care of me, and my loved ones.

I'll live in heaven for eternity.

Calling is the truth that God calls us to Himself so decisively that everything we are, everything that we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism and direction lived out as a response to His summons and service.

Commitment

Several words are utilized to express commitment. First, commitment communicates the entrusting of something valuable to another person [— to commit, commend, assign; to give over, commit].

Second, commitment additionally includes the responsibility to practice specific activities [to do, cause, commit; prasso— to do, practice, commit]. God has entrusted or committed a valuable deposit unto each believer that is to be guarded and protected, that is to be faithfully proclaimed, followed, or exercised, and that in turn is to be committed to others.

Each believer is responsible to respond to God's call by committing their heart, mind, body, and life to serve Him, to share the Gospel, and to be His ambassadors in this world.

Commit yourself to following His call!

1. Read John 10:1–10. List several things from this passage that you learn about Jesus and about those who follow Him. What promise do you find in verse 10?
2. Read Matthew 4:19; 9:9; Mark 2:14; and John 1:43. What consistent invitation did Jesus make to these persons? What interested or challenged you from these encounters?
3. What did the disciples have to “leave” in order to follow Jesus? What kind of “risks” were involved?
4. Have you ever responded to Jesus’ invitation on a personal level?
 - a. When and what has been the result in your life?
 - b. Can you think of a time when you did not respond?
5. Read John 15:15–17. List several things that you learn about those who follow Jesus from this passage? How does that deepen your love for Him?
6. Read Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23; John 10:27. What do you think Jesus means by these admonitions?
7. Read Romans 12:1–2 and answer the following questions:
 - a. On what basis does Paul exhort the believers to respond to God? How have you experienced this in your own life? In what ways does this encourage you in your commitment to Christ?
 - b. Why do you think Paul asks the believers to “present their bodies” as living sacrifices? What do you understand this to mean? Why would this be an act of worship?
 - c. What do you think “conforming to the world” means? (See also James 4:4–5) Describe this in twenty-first century terms.
 - d. How do you think God transforms our minds? (See 2 Peter 1:3–4; Eph. 5:26; Rom. 12:1–2) What is most helpful or challenging to you in any of these verses?
 - e. Can you think of a time in your life when you surrendered your entire life and future into God’s hands as Paul is exhorting here in Rom. 12:1–2? If so, what was the result? If not, are you willing to do so today?

8. How might you connect this call to commitment with Eph. 4:20–31?

List the outward evidences of a life surrendered to the call of God based on this passage.

9. How did the various persons from Hebrews 11 demonstrate their commitment to God's call on their life by their actions? Note several and be specific.

10. Take a few quiet moments and reflect on this lesson. Is there a decision or commitment that God may be inviting you to make today in your personal journey? Are you willing to do so?

11. What one insight or lesson do you hope to remember from your study of the response of faith in following the call of God to commitment?

CALLED TO COMMITMENT

God has personally called each believer to follow His call in a lifetime of faithful service. List the insights you learn from the related scriptural references. How do these insights enhance your understanding of the response of faith in following the call of God?

RESPONSE OF FAITH: CALLED TO COMMITMENT

