

## **02 | The Lordship of Jesus**

### THREE STEPS TO DISCIPLE-MAKING

Welcome back to Step Two of Three Steps to Disciple Making. And in this step, we're going to talk about what I suggest may be the most important topic of all, and that is the lordship of Jesus. But let's start with our foundational text in Luke 6:46-49. And let me pray. Father, thank You for the Word of God. And I pray once again that You minister to us through the Word. You're not only teaching us so that we are informed, but You're teaching us that we might be transformed. So, I pray that You would change each person's life today as they hear, as they listen to, as they read your Word, in Jesus' name, amen.

Okay, here we go! Luke 6, starting at verse 46. And again, these are the words of the Lord Jesus Himself. He said, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it

fell, and the ruin of that house was great." Okay, now we're going to focus on verse 46 in this lesson. In verse 46 is where Jesus asks this question. And I think this is a good question for new believers, old believers, in-between believers, and even nonbelievers. And here's what He said, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" Now, this may not make sense to you because you may not realize what the word Lord means. The word Lord in the original text, the Greek text is kurios and it means master, lord, owner, one who has control, one who has the title of honor and respect, reverence. And it really is the master to the servants.

And so, we have to put things in perspective and understand that when Jesus found us, we were lost in sin. We had disobeyed God. We were disconnected from God. And every one of us were on our way to any eternal damning place called hell. It's a place of torment. It's a place that God created--not for us, but for Satan and His angels. However, because Satan deceived human beings, and because we continue to sin and disobey God, in the afterlife, when we die, there are only two places to go: either we go to be with God or we go to this place called hell. And that's the state in which Jesus found us. So, what did Jesus do? He came from heaven. He became a human being. And He was sinless. And He was tempted with sin, just like we're tempted with sin, but He refused to sin ever, because He knew if He sinned ... first of all, He didn't want to sin, because He wanted to be right; He wanted to be like God. He wanted to please His Father. However,

He also knew that if He did ever sin one time, then He wouldn't be able to go and pay the price for all of our sin. So, Jesus gave up His existence with God in heaven to become a human being; the Creator becoming one of the created. And then He gave up His right to choose what He wanted to do and said, "I'm only going to do and say what the Father wants me to do and say." And then He lived this sinless life, and He then allowed Himself to be brutally tortured and killed as if he was the sinner. And He did that to pay for my sin, and your sin, and the sins of the entire world. And so, the only reason why we have life and connection with God (the only reason why anybody has life is because He created us), but the only reason why now we can have connection with God, and have eternal life, and have the peace and the joy that comes for eternity is because of Jesus. It's Him.

And so, in exchange for Him giving His life, we give our lives to Him. And He died for us, and we live for him. See? So, this is the exchange. This is the agreement, the deal that was made. And let me tell you, it's a great deal, because living for Jesus is the best thing, because everything He tells you to do is to your advantage eternally. Everything. Everything that Jesus wants us to do is for our own good. And so He said, "Why do you call Me Lord? Why do you call Me Master? Why do you say that I'm in charge, but you don't do what I tell you to do?" And there are a lot of people like that. There are a lot of people that call Jesus Lord. They call themselves believers or Christians, and they don't do

what Jesus tells them to do. And they think just because they call themselves believers, that they are. But that's not the way Jesus sees it. Jesus knows that talk is cheap. Now listen to Romans 10:9-10. This is where Paul said, "that if you confess with your mouth, the Lord Jesus..." notice, the Lord; that's that same Greek word, kurios, master ... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is your master and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. "For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made into salvation." Now, that doesn't mean if you just said a prayer one time; this means that if you do say that Jesus is your Lord; your talk, you admit, so to speak, in conversation, it's evident that you confess that Jesus is in charge of your life and you're not in charge of your life. See? And He said if you do that, then you're saved, because you're acknowledging His Lordship over your life.

I've seen so many people pray a little prayer and make Jesus Lord, but then they live the rest of their life as if He's not in charge. They control their lives, and I've even heard some believers say, "Well, it's my life anyway." Well, it was your life, but your life died with Jesus on the cross. Now, listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 6:24. "He said, 'No one can serve two masters (kurios).'" That's the same word, Lord, kurios. No one can serve two (kurios) masters. "For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other." And

listen to this last sentence that Jesus said, "You cannot serve God and mammon." He didn't say you should not. He said you cannot. Now, mammon, this is the god of money. This is money. He said, you can't serve God and money. Most people in this world are serving money. Money does so much good for us that most people are all about that. Think about how people train their kids. Hey, you need to get to bed. Why? Because you got to go to school tomorrow. Why do I have to go to school? Well, you need to go to school so you can get an education. Well, why? Well, you need an education so you can go to college. Well, why? We need to go to college to get a degree. Why? Well, you need to get a degree so you can get a good job. Why? Well, you need to get a good job so you can make money. We raise kids and we talk to kids as if money is God. Instead of raising kids and saying you need to go to school to get an education because God has a great plan for your life, and He has a purpose for your life, and you want to be prepared. You want to be able to communicate well. You want to be able to learn how to do things in life so that you can be useful to God for His purpose. You see, that's what we ought to be saying. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the Kingdom of God..." and all the other things that people are chasing, including money, resources, He said, God will add that to you if you'll do the will of God. See, that's what we ought to be doing. But even believers get caught up in this and they talk the money talk. And Jesus said you can't serve two masters. You're either going to serve God or you're going to

serve something else. And for a lot of people, it's money. It's mammon.

Now, listen to some sobering words from Jesus in Matthew 7:21-22. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord'..." That's the same word, kurios. "...shall enter the kingdom of heaven. But He who does the will of my father in heaven." Just sit on that one for a moment. Not everyone who says I'm their Lord will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord,'"; there it is again, kurios. "Have we not prophesied in Your name? Cast out demons in Your name? And done many wonders in Your name?" And He goes on to say, "and I'm going to say to them, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness. I never knew you." Now, can you believe that? Here they think that Jesus is their Lord; they're calling Him Lord. And they're even saying, "Well, we did things, we prophesied in Your name. We cast out demons in Your name. We did many signs and wonders." And He said, "I'm going to tell you, 'I didn't know you, depart from me.'" Now, this is astonishing and it's concerning. Well, why is this going to happen? Because some people think that they can make Jesus Lord and then pick and choose what they're going to obey. Well, I wanted to prophesy. I like that because it draws attention to me. Cast out demons. I like doing the power stuff. I like doing wonders in Your name. But when it came to obeying and doing what You called me to do, I didn't want to do that. I didn't want to go to that school. I wanted to go to this one. I

didn't want to work at that job. I wanted to work at this one. I don't want to live my life in abstinence sexually. No, I want to be sexually active like other people and just, you know, ask You to forgive me after I sin and cross lines or just say, well, God understands because He wants me to be happy. See, Jesus is saying you can't just pick some things that you like that I said to do and ignore the rest. No, you practice lawlessness, and I don't know you. That's just not the way this works.

When we come to Jesus, we follow Him. He decides what we do. He decides how we live. He decides how we speak, how we think. Somebody said, "Wow, we give up our whole life." Yes, that's what He did. He gave up everything for us. He wouldn't think his own thoughts. He wouldn't speak his own words. He came and He submitted Himself to Father God so that He could be the sacrifice. He sacrificed everything for us, and then He made us a deal. He said, "Your life is a life of sin, disconnected from God on your way to hell. But I'll give up my life. I am living eternally with God as God. But I'll become a human being. I'll give up everything in My life. And I'll die with all of your sin, if you'll take My life and live My life." See, that's the deal. And a lot of people don't understand it. So, when we receive forgiveness, we're also receiving Jesus as our Master, as our Lord. And He's the best master, by the way. The most loving, the most caring; He provides for us. You know, "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." I shall not lack. Right? He cares

for us. So, we're not talking about some mean, cruel master who doesn't care about us. No, we're talking about the most loving one. The one who gave His life for us. If there was anyone who is worthy and who would be enjoyable to serve, it would be somebody like Jesus. Because He loves us so much.

So, think about this. Think about marriage. I have counseled so many married couples, and I would sit with them--there's the husband, and there's the wife--and they're talking about the issues that they have and such. And then I begin to ask questions, and maybe the wife said, "Well, he does this and he says this," or "He doesn't do that." And I'll look at him and say, "Well, is this true? Do you really say those things? Do you really treat her like that?" "Well, yeah, because she treats me like that. She does this or she says that." And then I'll say, "Well, wait a minute. Doesn't God tell you to love your wife like Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it?" "Yes, but she does this." "Oh, well, but doesn't God's Word tell you to love her?" "Yes, but she..." See how people are? "Yeah, I know, God's Word tells me to do something, but I have a reason why I'm not going to do it. Because she doesn't do what I think she ought to do. She doesn't treat me the way that I think she ought to treat me. So therefore, I can compromise the Lordship of Jesus." And it is astounding to people when I help them to realize, and I even ask sometimes, "Are you a believer? Well, Jesus didn't say to treat her like that if she treated you the right way. He just said do it. You're under His Lordship.



You have a responsibility under your Lord. And if you are refusing to obey Jesus, you can't blame that on your wife. You are rebelling against the Lord and saying, 'I don't have to do it, because in this situation, they don't treat me right. So I just get to do what I want to do.' Well, that's not true. That's not true." And then sometimes I'll look at the wife and I'll say, "Do you treat him and do the things that he's saying?" "Yeah, because he doesn't love me. He doesn't do this or he doesn't do that." "Yeah, but the way that you speak, the way that you're talking, you know, that's not appropriate. That's not what God told you to do. And didn't Jesus tell you to love and submit to your husband, to come into partnership with him, and come into agreement with him and show some respect?" "Yeah, but he this and that and the other. So, I just shoot my mouth off, and I lay into him and ridicule him, or whatever, because he hurt me. So I'm going to hurt him and lash out at him." And I'll say, "Well, wait a minute, but isn't Jesus your Lord? And didn't He tell you to do it a different way? And so, what makes you think that you can ignore Jesus?" "Well, because of him."

Do you see how we are? It's circumstantial. We just say, because my circumstance or my environment or people around me are not doing what they ought to do, then I can completely ignore the Lordship of Jesus. And that's not true. And that's not true. And when couples find out (really it's individuals in a marriage) find out, oh, my goodness, I'm responsible to Jesus, no matter how my spouse

treats me, no matter how they act. I am responsible under the Lordship of Jesus to respond to them the way that He told me to respond to them. Oh, my goodness. Does this solve marriage problems? It does. It solves all kinds of problems. And so, think about this: the storms that come to a marriage, they will rock that marriage if people are not under the Lordship of Jesus. But this is what Jesus is teaching. It's so simple. If you'll come to Me, and if you'll hear what I'm saying, and actually do it, your marriage will be on solid ground. And when problems happen, or there's a sickness, or there's financial struggle, or whatever, a problem with a child, or with an in-law, all your marriage is solid. Why? Because we're submitted to the Lordship of Jesus, and we're walking in those truths. And so, therefore, the pettiness, the selfishness, the retaliation, the defensiveness, and all of those things, we won't allow them. Why? Because Jesus said no. Jesus said we live in love. We live in unity. We live with grace toward one another.

And let me tell you, it makes a huge difference to live under the Lordship of Jesus. This is what Jesus is teaching us in this Three Steps to Disciple Making, that if we will live like this, we will be solid disciples. But when we're training others, when we're discipling others, and helping them to become disciples and disciple-makers, we're helping them to learn. No, but you need to come under the leadership of Jesus and be obedient to Him and to be obedient to His words. Now listen to what Revelation 21:7-8 say: "He who overcomes

shall inherit all things, and I will be His God and he shall be my son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake, which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." So, notice very clearly, the Bible is saying don't think that you can make Jesus Lord and live as a believer, but you continue to live in sin. Now, somebody might say, "Well, wait a minute, we're saved by grace. We're not saved by works." That's absolutely true. We cannot earn our salvation. It is completely by grace, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, what we have to know is we're saved by grace. Well, what are we saved from? We're saved from sin, we're not saved to sin. No, we're saved from sin. Some people think we're just saved from consequences. No, we're saved from consequences, yes, but we're also saved from a life of disobedience and a life of sin. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 is where Paul said, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" And then He said this, "Do not be deceived..." And a lot of people are deceived. But He said, "Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards (people that are partying), nor revilers, nor extortioners or will inherit the kingdom of God." He said, "Don't be deceived. No, that's not going to happen. That's not the way this works." And He said, "And such for some of you. But you were washed..." Oh, thank God for the blood of Jesus, the innocent blood of Jesus, that washes us all from our sins

when we really turn to Him and follow Him as Lord! He said, "But you were washed, but you were sanctified..."; that means set apart. You were justified. You were declared righteous in the name of our Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought at a price..." So, Jesus bought us. And this is why He's worthy to be our Lord.

Now, Jesus didn't hold back when He gave His life, and He's asking us not to hold back when we give our lives back to Him. In 2 Corinthians 5, beginning in verse 13, the Bible says, "For if we are beside ourselves, it's for God; or if we're of a sound mind, it's for you. For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus..." Here's the way we see things. Now listen to this, "that if One [person] died for all, then all died..." So God says, "Listen, if Jesus really died for your sins, then I'm going to count that as if you've already died for your sins. What does that mean? You don't have to die for your sins anymore. You don't have to pay anymore because I'm going to count that Jesus' death on the cross was your death on the cross." And so, when the enemy accuses you and says, "They deserve to die because of their sin," God is saying, "They've already died. When Jesus died for them, they died." So, it says, "...that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." So, this is the trade-off: Jesus died for us, but we give our lives to Him and we live for Him.

Matthew 16:24-26 says, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" That doesn't mean we need to die on the cross. That just means that we live a life like He did, and we die to the life that we want to live and we live the life that He wants us to live. Let me just tell you, it's the best life you could ever live. The plans of God are the best plans. He goes on to say, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it..." If you try to keep the life that you want, "I want to do this and I want to do that" He said, you'll lose your life, but if you will lose your life for My sake, then you'll find it. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world..." You know, you get all the money, all the accolades, all the fame, everything you want but you lose your own soul. "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Let me hit this one last scripture. Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ..." So, of course, we weren't there on the cross with Jesus. But God is saying, "I am counting that as you being on the cross." So, we have to count it as that. We have to accept that, through Jesus, we've already died for our sins. We've already paid for it through Him. He's the one that really did it. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live." So, now my old person, when somebody says, "Well, it's my life." No, that was your life that died on the cross. This is the new life that Jesus gave you, to live for Him, to serve his purposes, to live, to do the things that God has called you to do that really

benefit other people and help them to come to know Jesus. So Paul said, "it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

You know, I remember when I was a young man, and I just got out of high school, and people are saying, "What are you going to do? Are you going to go to college?" And so, people said, "You need to be a computer technician," because personal computers, had just come out, and there were a lot of programmers, but there weren't enough technicians to fix the computers. So, they said, "You could make a lot of money." So, I joined college to become a computer technician, to make money. And guess what? I dropped out. Why? Because in my heart, I knew that's not what Jesus called me to do, and my life had to be what Jesus wanted me to do. So, the next semester, I joined college again, this time to become a paramedic. And I thought, "Oh man, being a paramedic, that's a noble profession. I'll be esteemed by people. I'll be valued." See? But it was still for the wrong reason. But guess what? I dropped out again. Why? Because in my heart, I just knew somehow that that's not what Jesus called me to do. There's so many people doing things, believers that are doing things that Jesus has not called them to do. But that's not us. No, we're called to find out what Jesus wants us to do. And thankfully, in the process of time, I continued to ask God, "Show me." And He led me to Bible college, because I was called to become a pastor. And

so, I went to Bible college and I began to pastor. And God has tremendously helped me and blessed me. And I know that I'm doing what God has called me to do.

Let me just close with a couple of additional examples. In my marriage, because I submit to the Lordship of Jesus, not perfectly, but I do. And I refuse to treat my wife in a way that my flesh or my mind feels like "I can say this to her or I can respond to her if she doesn't give me just the right tone or attitude, well, I can lash back at her." Oh, no, I can't. Oh, I have a Lord over me that holds me accountable for how I treat His daughter, this precious lamb of His. And if I don't do it right, I need to repent before Him, not just before her, but before Him, because I disobeyed Him. See, so this is made for a beautiful marriage to live under the Lordship of Jesus. It's a solid marriage, because I'm listening to Him.

So, here's something else. Because Jesus is my Lord, I don't watch whatever I want to watch. You know, there are certain movies that I would enjoy, violence or whatever. My eyes would like to see it. I'm interested in that. However, it has things in it, has language in it, and it has scenes in it that are not appropriate. Jesus has taught me from the Word of God that that's not what He wants me to put into my eyes and heart. It's not right. It's not righteous. And He's my Lord, so I don't watch those things. Well, what I listen to, what kind of music I listen to, what kind of conversation I listen to. No, I don't listen

to whatever my ears would like to listen to. No, why? I have a Lord. I'm not in charge. It's not my life. It's His life in me. See, and this is what it means to have a Lord, a Master. I do it His way, and what I allow in my mind; you know, my mind can think thoughts that are wrong. Somebody said, "Well, I'm married, but that doesn't mean I can't think about things." Well, yes, actually it does, because Jesus shows us how to have a beautiful marriage, where we're not just jumping through hoops to act like we're sold-out for our spouse. And then, in our minds, we're fantasizing and doing things with other people. And so, internally, we're a whole different person. Thank God, Jesus taught me that I can control my mind and say no. In fact, I love the scripture that the psalmist prayed to God, "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!" And see if there's any wicked way in me. God wants purity inside of our hearts. And I found out we can do it. He will strengthen us to do it. And so it's a beautiful thing to be able to look my wife in the eyes and say, "You know what? You are my love. You are my one and only romance. You are my favorite person in the whole world from the inside." And let me tell you, she knows I'm being honest. That doesn't mean I'm some perfect person. No, but these words of Jesus and submitting under His Lordship have caused something so beautiful. You cannot buy a marriage like that. You can only have it by following the Lordship of Jesus.



So, what I do when no one's watching, except God, God's always watching ... what do I do? How do I act? Well, God taught me under the Lordship of Jesus, I act the same. The same person. I'm not doing things that I wouldn't do when my wife or somebody else was not around. No, and this is what it means to make Jesus Lord.

I want to pray with you right now, because I believe that there are many who will be watching, listening to, or reading this message. And you know, in your heart, I need to genuinely make Jesus Lord and follow Him. If that's true, then do it right now. Let's come before Him. Father, we come in Jesus' name. And I thank you for this teaching on the Lordship of Jesus. And Jesus asks the question, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' but you don't do what I tell you?" May that not be true for us anymore. And I encourage you, friend, just say with your mouth out loud, "Jesus, you are my Lord. I make you the Lord. I'm not in control of my life. You're in control of my life." And I pray, Father, that you strengthen each person by the Holy Spirit to follow this through in Jesus' name. amen. Well, alright. That's Step Two. I hope this encouraged you, and you're going to really like Step Three. So, we'll see you then.