

HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 12:46-50, Proverbs 24:16, Colossians 3:23-24, Revelation 4:11

Observation questions

1. The sermon uses the analogy of caller ID to illustrate how we might ignore God's call. What are some specific ways people today might "not answer the phone" when God is calling?
2. When Jesus' mother and brothers came to speak with him, he asked, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" What was Jesus demonstrating about his priorities in that moment?
3. The sermon highlights that "the godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again." What does this verse suggest about the nature of godly leadership versus perfection?
4. The passage in Revelation describes the elders falling down and worshipping God, saying, "You are worthy." What does this heavenly scene reveal about the ultimate reason for our actions and sacrifices?

Interpretation questions

1. The sermon suggests that sometimes we ignore God's call because it doesn't match our expectations, status, or timing. How does Jesus' response in Matthew 12 challenge the idea that family ties or popular opinion should dictate our obedience to God's will?
2. The sermon emphasizes that "leading a worthy life isn't about perfection, it's about priority." How does the proverb about the righteous falling and rising again help us understand this distinction between perfection and priority in our pursuit of godly leadership?
3. The idea of "legacy" is presented as a reframing of present struggles. How does understanding that our choices today shape future generations help us to embrace the "cost of calling," which often involves self-denial and disappointing others?

CAN YOU HANDLE THE WEIGHT?

STUDY GUIDE

Application questions

1. Think about the "caller ID" analogy. When has God's call come at an inconvenient time or in a way that didn't match your expectations? How did you respond, and what might you do differently next time?
2. The sermon challenges us to discern what is "needed versus what is wanted." What is one area in your life where you need to say "no" to something good (wanted) in order to say "yes" to something God is calling you to do (needed)?
3. We are told that "persistence, not perfection, qualifies people for faithfulness." What is one area where you have recently stumbled or failed, and how can you intentionally "get back up" and reorient your priorities around God's purposes this week?
4. The sermon speaks about the "cost of calling," which can involve disappointing loved ones or enduring criticism. How can you better prepare yourself to embrace this cost, knowing that it's the price of fidelity to God's purpose?
5. Considering the idea of legacy, what is one decision you can make this week that will intentionally shape a more positive spiritual rhythm for future generations in your family or community?
6. The sermon encourages us to "work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men." In what area of your life, whether it's your job, your family, or your ministry, can you shift your focus from pleasing people to serving God with greater intentionality?
7. Given that God is supremely worthy, what is one area of your life where you have been shortchanging God or questioning if the effort is "worth it"? How can you commit to giving your best to that area, knowing that your reward is eternal?