

We Live By Trust
Matthew 8:18-22

I. Motives are very important in how we relate to God.

- A. Motives answer the question, "Why?"
 - 1. Why do I follow Jesus? Why do I obey God?
 - 2. Our motives are what cause us to act.
 - 3. Religious motivation and Gospel motivation are different.
 - (a) Religious motivation: I obey to earn favor.
 - (b) Gospel motivation: Because of Jesus I am already favored. I obey as a grateful response.
- B. In Jesus' day, rabbis had disciples who followed them.
 - 1. They lived together so they could become like the rabbi.
 - 2. There was some status from following a prominent teacher.
 - (a) In Acts 22, Paul establishes his own credentials by saying that he was a disciple of Gamaliel.
 - 3. The teacher of the law professes a willingness to follow.
 - (a) He even professes devotion, saying he will go wherever Jesus goes.
 - 4. Jesus challenges the man by saying "I am homeless."
 - (a) Perhaps he's challenging the authenticity of his devotion.
 - (b) Perhaps he's challenging his motives (Proverbs 20:6).
 - (c) "You want to be prominent. Are you willing to be homeless?"
- C. Why do we follow Jesus?
 - 1. Are we wanting to be prominent, important, significant?
 - 2. Or are we truly devoted to Jesus because he is worthy?
 - 3. Are we just being ambitious, wanting to look good?

II. Following Jesus requires trust.

- A. A second man says, "I'll follow you after I bury my Dad."
 - 1. Honoring one's father and mother was considered to one of the greatest commandments.
 - (a) One commentary said the burial was the task of the eldest son.
 - (b) To not fulfill this responsibility could bring shame.
 - 2. However, if he is the eldest son, he is also the heir.
 - (a) The inheritance was distributed after the death.
 - (b) Is he concerned about losing his inheritance?
- B. Perhaps the real issue is security.
 - 1. Could he be saying, "I'll be set once I get the estate?"
 - (a) Once I am wealthy, I will be willing to follow.
 - (b) Let me build up the 401K, then I'll serve you.
 - 2. Many people serve God in a second vocation. That is good.
 - (a) But it's only good if you're following God's call.
 - (b) He may call you to business and then to ministry.
 - (c) But what if he calls you to ministry and says, "trust me?"
 - 3. "Don't wait until you have financial security, trust me now."

- 4. We need to follow God's call. He will take care of us.
 - (a) He is always faithful.
 - (b) He is very generous!
- 5. I avoided God's call upon my life for years.
 - (a) I wasn't even aware I was avoiding it.
 - (b) I had convinced myself he wanted me to do other things.
- 6. Being called into ministry is one of the best things in my life.
 - (a) I had been Jonah. The insurance industry is my "belly of the whale" experience.

III. Be careful not to put pleasing people before pleasing God.

- A. Following Jesus is not always pleasing to parents and family members.
 - 1. I knew a Messianic Jew who attended her own funeral.
 - 2. When she told her family she had become a Christ follower, they disowned her, considered her dead. Ouch!
 - 3. What are we to do? We love our parents.
 - (a) God calls us to honor them.
 - (b) We want to be a good witness, so they will come to faith.
- B. Jesus says, "Let the dead bury the dead."
 - 1. The nonbelievers (the dead) can focus on the temporal things
 - (a) You need to follow me first and trust me with your family.
 - (b) Don't put pleasing Mom and Dad before following me.
- C. If you are from a religious family, this can be very difficult.
 - 1. Going to a different church can be very offensive to parents.
 - 2. Telling parents that you've been born again can be offensive.
 - 3. Jesus said he did not come to bring peace (Matt 10:34-39).
 - (a) Relationships divide because someone follows Jesus.
 - 4. Responding to Jesus must be our priority. He comes first.
 - (a) Trust him even if you are rejected.
 - (b) Only he can bring your family members to saving faith.
 - (c) My Dad's conversion.
- D. Sometimes believing parents stand in the way of kids' calling.
 - 1. Your kids are adults.
 - 2. Jesus is calling them to a particular form of service.
 - (a) But you question the wisdom of their decisions.
 - (b) You tell them what to do. You try to control them.
 - (c) You are the one who is not following Jesus.
 - (d) You're struggling to trust him with your child's life.
 - 3. What do you do? You might need to begin with repentance.
 - (a) Back away from control.
 - (b) Release your child to Jesus.
 - (c) Rejoice that you are blessed to have a child who has a heart to follow Jesus!
 - 4. For you, or for your child, there is a cost to following Jesus.
 - (a) But do you know what has a greater cost?
 - (b) Not following Jesus!