

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# Where Do You Go From Here?

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Matthew 21:28-32

**1 2 God provided you a definite plan of salvation. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that who-ever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** <sup>1</sup> The baby in the Bethlehem stable was God's gift to you. That's why we celebrate Christmas. The Savior on the cross was God's gift to you. That's why we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday. <sup>3</sup>

**You provide the response to God's definite plan of salvation.** <sup>4</sup>

You do this by exposing yourself to the gospel; the word of God. <sup>5</sup>

You do this by putting your faith in the Lord it presents. <sup>6</sup>

You do this by repenting, a willingness to change your life to conform with God's will for you. <sup>7</sup>

You do this by making the Good Confession which

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<sup>1</sup> John 3:16.

verbally confirms your allegiance to Jesus as Lord. <sup>8</sup>

You do this by being baptized as an identification with the Lord and His gospel message; you agree to His New Covenant. <sup>9</sup>

**What happens now?** <sup>10</sup>

The Lord said, **Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** <sup>2 11</sup>

Just saying you are a Christian doesn’t make it so! <sup>12</sup>

After you have genuinely accepted the Lord, He wants you to begin putting your new faith into your life.

How? <sup>13</sup>

The Lord put it this way, **What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’” ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did**

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 7:21.

not go. “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”<sup>3</sup> <sup>14</sup>

For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.<sup>4</sup> <sup>15</sup>

The first way you begin putting your faith into your life is . . .

## I. By Seeking God’s Will

By seeking God’s will. <sup>16</sup>

The father made his will known very specifically. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’<sup>5</sup> <sup>17</sup>

The word “Go” in this verse <sup>6</sup> (in the original language) is a command to “go quietly”. <sup>18</sup> The word

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 21:28-31.

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 21:32.

<sup>5</sup> v16.

<sup>6</sup> ὑπάγω.

“work” in this verse <sup>7</sup> is a command to work, to begin producing something; to make something happen! <sup>19</sup>

**You seek God’s will today by connecting with His word;** the Bible. In Second Timothy, chapter 2, verse 15, it says, **Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.**

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Timothy was a good example of this. In Second Timothy, chapter 3, verses 15 through 17, he is described as, . . . **how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures,** which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is God-breathed** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, **so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.** <sup>21</sup>

This connection can be with your involvement with a Sunday Bible School, Sunday worship and with a

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<sup>7</sup> ἐργάζομαι.

home Bible study ministry team. <sup>22</sup>

But **there's no substitute for private Bible study**; your own individual quiet time! <sup>23</sup> The American Bible Society recommends this method. <sup>24</sup>

1. Read the Bible passage carefully and prayerfully. <sup>25</sup>

2. Read it slowly with an alert mind. <sup>26</sup>

3. Read it expectantly with anticipation. <sup>27</sup>

4. Seek a personal message in it. <sup>28</sup>

5. Be eager to respond inwardly to it. <sup>29</sup>

6. Repeat aloud verses that meet your needs. <sup>30</sup>

7. Have a definite reading time each day. <sup>31</sup>

8. Copy and memorize a key verse each day. <sup>32</sup>

**You seek God's will today also through prayer.** James, chapter 1, verses 5 and 6, **If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt,**

**because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.** <sup>33</sup>

The second way you begin putting your faith into your life is . . .

## **II. By Obeying What You Find**

By obeying what you find. Notice now verse 29, **‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.** <sup>34</sup> Are you one of the people in the church who said, “No” to God all your life but responded dramatically to Him when confronted with the gospel?

<sup>35</sup>

**The first son wasn’t willing, but he got up and went to work!** <sup>36</sup>

Notice the Bible examples. There were the tax collectors. <sup>8</sup> <sup>37</sup> There were the prostitutes; the woman in John, chapter 8, and the woman at Simon the

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<sup>8</sup> v36 - For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.

Pharisee's house. <sup>9</sup> <sup>38</sup> Then there were also former persecutors of the church like Saul of Tarsus. Sometimes the greater the sinful life before conversion, the greater the commitment afterwards! People like this live the life. They conscientiously put God's will into their lives! <sup>39</sup>

You are never too far gone to accept the Lord and have eternal and abundant life. You may end up being the most responsive and enthusiastic for the Lord! The Lord went to places where the most socially "undesirables" were and found the best reception there. <sup>40</sup>

Are you one of the people in the church who "talk the talk" but fail to "walk the walk"! Notice verse 30, **Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.** <sup>41</sup> **The second son said he was willing, but he didn't obey.** <sup>42</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> John 8:1-11 and Mark 14:3.



The Lord said you must hear and obey His words. <sup>10</sup> 43  
Remember James, chapter 2, verses 17 and 24, **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead . . . You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.** 44

Do you profess a Christian faith but fail to express it in the way you live? Faith that is not expressed in your behavior is dead!

Be sure you are living the way you say you are!

<http://www.biblelifemessages.org>

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<sup>10</sup> Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.