

Made For Mission  
Week two  
What Is My Mission

**Luke 9:23**

**“Then he said to them, “whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”**

Jesus made it clear that the mission of those who would follow him was the same as his. Followers must lay down their lives on a daily basis for the sake of others being saved. And let’s remember also, our mission is way bigger than ourselves or even the people we serve, it’s part of a worldwide movement that Jesus started himself.

If you’ve been following Jesus for a while and would consider yourself a Christian you might be nodding your head in agreement thinking, “God’s mission is my mission. Got it. What’s next?”

You May intellectually believe your primary mission is to join God but maybe your life and your priorities are saying something totally different. Let me warn you that today could be a bit uncomfortable but just remember I didn’t start it.....Jesus did.

I think one of Satan’s most powerful tools to get Jesus followers off mission is the weapon of **DISTRACTION**. Let me prove it to you. If you have a cell phone would you pull it out for a moment.

- **Did you know, the average person checks their cell phone 110 times a day. That works out to nine times an hour.**
- **55% of phone users text while driving, which is six times more dangerous than driving drunk.**

- **84% of worldwide cell users report not being able to go a single day without their phone in their hand.**
- **50% of teens admit to being addicted to their cell phones. It is something that they could not live without.**
- **Here is the ultimate test to see if your cell phone might be a distraction or even an addiction for you. Did you check your phone when I told you to pull it out and have now missed part of what I just said? Be honest, raise your hands.**

We live in a distractive culture. If Satan can't make you bad he will make you busy. If he can get you off your mission he's winning.

In a recent survey by life way, 80% of churchgoers say they believe they have a personal responsibility in sharing their faith but 61% say that they haven't in the past six months. So the majority of us know what the mission is and the importance of it but somehow it doesn't impact the way we live, and this is exactly what we're going to talk about today.

#### **Luke 9:57-62**

**“As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” He said to another man, “Follow Me”. But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.” Still another said, “I will follow you Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”**

From this passage, Jesus identifies and calls out three distractions that will pull you away from the mission Jesus has made you specifically for.

The first distraction is:

### **1. The Mission Of Comfort.**

A man walks up ready to follow and Jesus just simply says that this mission may lead to homelessness. We don't hear how the person responds but it's heavily implied that this was a game stopper for him. He was totally into following Jesus as long as it didn't take him out of his comfort zone.

Just think about all the things Jesus had his disciples do. He sent them out for weeks at a time with no cash, extra clothes or fall back plan. Jesus is not so much concerned with our comfort as he is our obedience.

So what happens with the mission of comfort comes in conflict with the mission of Jesus? What happens when comfort becomes a bigger deal in your life than Christ? We learn here that Jesus says it would be better to count the cost before following him.

### **2. The second distraction is The Mission Of Commitments.**

Jesus turns to another person and initiates the conversation. He says "follow me." But the man replied, "Lord first let me go and bury my father." Jesus says back to him, "let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

At first this seems like a pretty harsh response from Jesus. Who would say that to somebody? This man wanted to wait until after his father's death which might have been years away. Jesus clearly conveys that there is an urgency to the mission that he's called us too. It's not something we pick up on our schedule finally has some breathing room but instead becomes our first priority immediately.

Jesus famously said, **“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

Jesus promises that if we placed his kingdom first in our lives then he will take care of all those other things we love to stress about. So are there any things you have told Jesus **“yes, but first...”** I’ll serve but first let me get through this busy season. I’ll give but first let me get this promotion. I’ll share my faith but first let me get more comfortable in my own walk with God. I told you it was gonna be uncomfortable this morning.

### **3. The third and last distraction is The Mission Of Competition.**

As Jesus continues to walk along another man approaches. **“I will follow you Lord BUT first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”** Jesus turns to him and replies, “no one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” This seems like a very harsh response from Jesus right?

I want you to look closely at the scripture and noticed this one three letter word **“BUT.”**

I’ve heard that the word but completely impacts whatever was said just before. Think about it.... I’m pregnant but... I got into trouble but..... I love you but..... I’ll follow you but....

There are lots of things in our lives that are competing with God’s mission. Making money, appearing successful in the world’s eyes, having everything you want, staying healthy, having your kids turn out perfectly. Many of these things are great, but do they ever compete with what God’s mission is in your life?

Simply saying that you will follow him is not enough. The primary characteristic he is looking for in his followers is humility. While I lay down my own converts, other commitments and things that compete for my time, treasure and talents to resolutely follow Jesus.