

# THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

## Understanding the Lost Generations

Matthew 11:16-24, 12:31-32

INTRODUCTION: Last week – How to live in a world dominated by a godless culture.

And that is where we live.

Newest research says that 60% of born again Christians do not believe Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Researchers mis-stated their results.

60% of people who SELF-IDENTIFY as born again Christians do not believe Jesus is the only way to heaven.

I have no confidence that anyone is truly saved who thinks a person can be saved by anyone or anything other than Jesus.

**John 14:6 NKJV** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

- Therefore, someone who says they believe a person can go to heaven by following Buddha or Mohammed,
- Either does not believe the Bible is true, or
- They believe Jesus was wrong.
- Either way, it is hard to think that such a person has truly trusted Jesus as their Lord and Master who died on the cross for their sins and rose from the dead.

Our culture and our world moves further and further from God.

**So in Matthew 10, we saw that Jesus said to His disciples and to us, when living in such a wicked society,**

- **Do not fear the followers of the evil one. Instead reverence God. Fear Him!**
- **And speak the truth in the open. Speak clearly the Word of God.**
- **Do not hide your allegiance to Christ.**

- **Even if it puts a barrier between you and another person, even a family member, love them and do good to them, but be loyal to Jesus above all others.**

Now, in Matthew 11 and 12, we hear Jesus making comments about an unbelieving generation. We understand the groups of unbelievers in our own culture by listening to Jesus words.

### **JESUS COMPARED THE UNBELIEVING GENERATION TO SELFISH CHILDREN WHO WANT EVERYTHING THEIR WAY.**

Matthew 11:16–19 NKJV 16 “But to what shall I liken this generation?

It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, 17 and saying: ‘We played the flute for you, And you did not dance; We mourned to you, And you did not lament.’

18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.”

- Groups of lost people try to force others to
  - Think like they think
  - Talk like they talk
  - Do what they do
  - If not, they cancel you. They kick you out of anything they can. They marginalize you, and try to take away any power you might have, including your livelihood.
- Jesus warned us that they cannot be satisfied or placated.
  - He said, they rejected John the Baptist because he lived an ascetic lifestyle. He fasted often and lived an austere and disciplined life.
  - Jesus said, then I am not as strict about the outward disciplines and eat a good meal with Matthew the tax collector, and they reject me too.
  - You cannot please them unless you dance every step to the beat in their tune.

Folks, listen to Jesus! These are not the words or analysis of Bro. Mike. These are the words of Jesus!

- Wake up! You cannot be woke enough to satisfy them.

- They will never believe that black lives matter to you if that includes the black policeman.

Understanding what Jesus tells us helps us see that we cannot win them, help them, or make peace with them by trying to compromise a little to be a bit more like them.

Instead,

- **Don't fear them. Fear and reverence God!**
- **Speak God's truth to them. Speak it in love, but speak God's truth.**

Secondly,

### **JESUS REBUKED THOSE WHO HAD GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW THE TRUTH BUT WHO REJECTED IT.**

Matthew 11:20–24 NKJV 20 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

The Holy Spirit spoke the same truth through Paul in the first chapter of Romans.

Romans 1:18–21 NKJV 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

They rejected the proof of God's existence and power made known through the evidence of creation, and the consequence was that they “became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Romans 1:28–32 NKJV 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with

- all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness,
- covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy,
- murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness;
- *they are* whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God,
- violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things,
- disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy,
- unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God,

- that those who practice such things are deserving of death,
- not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Understanding this should encourage us to do exactly what Jesus said to do.

- **Do not fear them. Fear and reverence God!**
- **Speak God's truth to them. Speak it in love, but speak God's truth.**
- **Most especially, share the gospel, for it is the power of God to bring salvation.**
- **All of the sins listed in this passage, result from unbelief, and are the reason Jesus died on the cross.**
- **He can and will forgive them all!**

**THERE IS ONLY ONE SIN THAT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN.**

Matthew 12:31–32 NKJV 31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

- **What is the unpardonable sin?**
  - **It is not suicide.**

- **It is the final rejection of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.**
- Why is it called blasphemy of the Spirit?
  - Because the work of the Holy Spirit with the lost is to lead them to Christ.

John 16:7-8 NKJV 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

- To reject Christ when the Spirit is convicting is
  - To call the Holy Spirit a liar
  - To call the Holy Spirit a deceiver
  - It is blasphemy because that is the same as calling the Holy Spirit Satan.
- **How can I be sure I never commit the unpardonable sin?**
  - **A born again Christian cannot commit the unpardonable sin.**
  - **Therefore, be saved when the Holy Spirit calls.** The lost never know when the final invitation comes.