



Have I Done My Best For Jesus?

A Teaching Outline

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Have I Done My Best For Jesus?

Lyrics: Ensign Ewin Young - Music: Harry E. Storrs

I wonder have I done my best for Jesus
Who died upon the cruel tree?
To think of his great sacrifice at Calvary!
I know the Lord expects the best from me.

The hours that I have wasted are so many
The hours I've spent for Christ so few,
Because of all my lack of love for Jesus,
I wonder if his heart is breaking too.

I wonder if I have cared enough for others,
Or have I let them die alone?
I might have helped a wonderer to the Saviour,
The seed of precious life I might have sown.

No longer will I stay within the valley,
I'll climb to mountain heights above.
The world is dying now for want of someone,
To tell them of the Saviour's matchless love.

Refrain:

How many are the lost that I have lifted?
How many are the chained I helped to free?
I wonder have I done my best for Jesus,
When he has done so much for me?

God Hears My Prayer

Psalm 3:4

I was crying to the LORD with my voice, And He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah.

God's holy mountain was Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, the place where David's son Solomon would build the Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1).

David knew that God could not be confined to any space, but he wrote poetically, expressing confidence that God would hear him when he prayed. God responds to us when we earnestly pray to him.

God hears my voice and my supplications.

Psalm 116:1

I love the LORD, because He hears my voice and my supplications.

God is so responsive that you can always reach him. He bends down and listens to your voice. This writer's love for the Lord had grown because he had experienced answers to his prayers. If you are discouraged, remember that God is near, listening carefully to every prayer and answering each one in order to give you his best.

The Lord is worthy to be praised.

2 Samuel 22:4

"I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

David was a skilled musician who played his harp for Saul (1 Samuel 16:23), instituted the music programs in the Temple (1 Chronicles 25), and wrote more of the book of Psalms than anyone else. Writing a song like this was not unusual for David. This royal hymn of thanksgiving is almost identical to Psalm 18.

I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:3

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

God's protection of his people is limitless and can take many forms. David characterized God's care with five military symbols.

God is like

- (1) A *rock* that can't be moved by any who would harm us,
- (2) A fortress or place of safety where the enemy can't follow,
- (3) A *shield* that comes between us and harm,
- (4) *Power that saves*, a symbol of might that can save us,
- (5) A *place of safety* high above our enemies.

If you need protection, look to God.

O God; Incline your ear to me, hear my speech.

Psalm 17:6

I have called upon you, for you will answer me, O God; Incline your ear to me, hear my speech.

David's claim was an understanding of his relationship with God. In Psalms 32 and 51, David freely acknowledged his own sins. Nevertheless his relationship with God was one of close fellowship and constant repentance and forgiveness. His claim to goodness, therefore, was based on his continual seeking after God.

Just as we protect our eyes, so God will protect us. We must not conclude, however, that we have somehow missed God's protection if we experience troubles. God's protection has far greater purposes than helping us avoid pain; it is to make us better servants for him. God also protects us by guiding us through painful circumstances, not only by helping us escape them.

The LORD hears when I call to Him.

Psalm 4:3

But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; the LORD hears when I call to Him.

The godly are those who are faithful and devoted to God. David knew that God would hear him when he called and would answer him. We, too, can be confident that God listens to our prayers and answers when we call on him. Sometimes we think that God will not hear us because we have fallen short of his high standards for holy living. But if we have trusted Christ for salvation, God has forgiven us and he will listen to us.

When you feel as though your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling, remember that as a believer you have been set apart by God and that he loves you. He hears and answers although his answers may not be what you expect. Look at your problems in the light of God's power instead of looking at God in the shadow of your problems.

Whatever we ask we receive from Him.

1 John 3:22

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

If your conscience is clear, you can come to God without fear, confident that your requests will be heard. John reaffirms Jesus' promise that whatever we ask for will be given to us (Matthew 7:7; see also Matthew 21:22; John 9:31; 15:7).

You will receive if you obey and do what pleases him because you will then be asking in line with God's will. Of course this does not mean that you can have anything you want, like instant riches. If you are truly seeking God's will, there are some requests you will not make.

Christ Is My Lord

Romans 10:9

That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Have you ever been asked, "How do I become a Christian?" These verses give you the beautiful answer: Salvation is as close as your own lips and heart. People think it must be a complicated process, but it is not. If we believe in our heart and say with our mouth that Christ is the risen Lord, we will be saved.

We preach Jesus as Lord.

2 Corinthians 4:5

For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

The focus of Paul's preaching was Christ and not himself. When you witness, tell people about what Christ has done and not about your abilities and accomplishments. People must be introduced to Christ, not to you. And if you hear someone preaching about himself or his own ideas rather than about Christ, beware—he is a false teacher.

Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:11

And that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At the Last Judgment, even those who are condemned will recognize Jesus' authority and right to rule. People can choose now to commit their lives to Jesus as Lord or be forced to acknowledge him as Lord when he returns. Christ may return at any moment. Are you prepared to meet him?

Thomas sees and believes.

John 20:28

Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus wasn't hard on Thomas for his doubts. Despite his skepticism, Thomas was still loyal to the believers and to Jesus himself.

Some people need to doubt before they believe. If doubt leads to questions, and questions lead to answers, and if the answers are accepted, then doubt has done good work.

It is when doubt becomes stubbornness and stubbornness becomes a prideful lifestyle that doubt harms faith. When you doubt, don't stop there. Let your doubt deepen your faith as you continue to search for the answer.

Jesus' resurrected body was unique. It was not the same kind of flesh and blood Lazarus had when he came back to life. Jesus' body was no longer subject to the same laws of nature as before his death. He could appear in a locked room; yet he was not a ghost or apparition because he could be touched and could eat. Jesus' resurrection was *literal and physical*— he was not a disembodied spirit.

Some people think they would believe in Jesus if they could see a definite sign or miracle. But Jesus says we are blessed if we can believe without seeing. We have all the proof we need in the words of the Bible and the testimony of believers. A physical appearance would not make Jesus any more real to us than he is now.

There is no partiality with God.

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Although Christians may be at different levels in earthly society, we are all equal before God. He does not play favorites; no one is more important than anyone else. Paul's letter to Philemon stresses the same point: Philemon, the master, and Onesimus, his slave, were brothers in Christ.

Grace, mercy and truth comes from God.

2 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul's second letter to Timothy was written about two to four years after his first letter. Timothy had been Paul's traveling companion on the second and third missionary journeys, and Paul had left him in Ephesus to help the church there (1 Timothy 1:3, 4).

Not My Will but God's Will

Matthew 26:39

And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will."

Jesus was not rebelling against his Father's will when he asked that the cup of suffering and separation be taken away. In fact, he reaffirmed his desire to do God's will by saying, "Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." His prayer reveals to us his terrible suffering. His agony was worse than death because he paid for *all* sin by being separated from God. The sinless Son of God took our sins upon himself to save us from suffering and separation.

All things are possible for you

Mark 14:36

And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for you; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will."

Was Jesus trying to get out of his task? Jesus expressed his true feelings, but he did not deny or rebel against God's will. He reaffirmed his desire to do what God wanted. Jesus' prayer highlights the terrible suffering he had to endure—an agony so much more magnified because he had to take on the sins of the whole world.

This "cup" was the agony of alienation from God, his Father, at the cross (Hebrews 5:7-9). The sinless Son of God took on our sins and was separated for a while from God so that we could be eternally saved.

Jesus prayed for God's will to be done.

Luke 22:42

Saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

It is never wrong to express our true feelings to God. Jesus exposed his dread of the coming trials, but he also reaffirmed his commitment to do what God wanted. The cup he spoke of meant the terrible agony he knew he would endure—not only the horror of the crucifixion but, even worse, the total separation from God that he would have to experience in order to die for the world's sins.

Jesus sought the will of God who sent him.

John 5:30

"I can do nothing on my own initiative as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of Him who sent me."

Those who have rebelled against Christ will be resurrected, too, but they will hear God's judgment against them and will be sentenced to eternity apart from him. There are those who wish to live well on earth, ignore God, and then see death as final rest. Jesus does not allow unbelieving people to see death as the end of it all. There is a judgment to face.

Jesus did the will of God who sent him.

John 6:38

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.

Jesus did not work independently of God the Father, but in union with him. This should give us even more assurance of being welcomed into God's presence and being protected by him. Jesus' purpose was to do the will of God, not to satisfy Jesus' human desires. When we follow Jesus, we should have the same purpose.

Jesus was sent to accomplish God's work.

John 4:34

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.

The "nourishment" about which Jesus was speaking was his spiritual nourishment. It includes more than Bible study, prayer, and attending church. Spiritual nourishment also comes from doing God's will and helping to bring his work of salvation to completion. We are nourished not only by what we take in, but also by what we give out for God. In 17:4, Jesus refers to completing God's work on earth.

David prayed for God's good spirit to lead him on level ground.

Psalms 143:10

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

David's prayer was to be taught to do God's will, not his own. A prayer for guidance is self-centered if it doesn't recognize God's power to redirect our lives. Asking God to restructure our priorities awakens our minds and stirs our will.

It all depends on God's mercy.

Romans 9:16

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

The fallacy of gaining salvation by human effort remains as strong as ever—people still think good intentions are the key to unlock the door to eternal life. By the time they get to try the lock, they will find that their key does not fit.

Others imagine that their efforts are building an invisible ladder to heaven made up of service, family, position, reputation, good work, and desire, although none of these rungs will support a feather. People are so busy trying to reach God that they completely miss the truth that God has already reached down to them.

We cannot earn God's mercy—if we could, it would not be mercy.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door to Jesus

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

The New Living Bible

New American Standard Bible

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print