

## **Lordship: Availability**

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### I. Introduction.

- A. Becoming a Christian does not solve your problems—you get a new set of problems instead.
- B. Jesus Christ should permeate the Christian's life, so he has to have integrity in all that he does.
- C. The follower of Jesus must deny himself. (Luke 9:23)

### II. The value of the individual.

- A. Verses on salvation are singular or individual. (John 3:16-18; 3:36)
- B. The secret of success in ministry is treating people as individuals.
- C. Treat people as individuals.

### III. It is one's relationship to the Lord that is of significance in the ministry.

### IV. A man has to have a desire to come after Jesus. (John 7:17, Revelation 3:20, John 6:44)

- A. We must keep the door open for Jesus.
- B. Denying things is not the problem, but denying self is.
- C. It is hard to deny the self, but we are to go the second mile. (John 13:13, Matthew 5:41)
- D. Instead, all that we want is our way.
- E. Whatever we want to grow we have to plant in Jesus.
- F. This means we have to give what we want up to the Lord. (John 12:23)

### V. Many things keep us from being available, but it is a matter of you being available. It is not a matter of the things.

- A. We usually do what we want to do.
- B. You are the issue.
- C. Deny yourself by renewing your mind. (Romans 12:1-2)

### VI. A man on a cross is only going in one direction—to the grave. He is not concerned with earthly things.

- A. The Christian is an alien on this earth. (Philippians 3:20)
- B. God is able to deal with the problems of the body.

C. The cross is not necessarily a burden but it is an implement of death for the flesh.

VII. We are to follow Christ in order to become fishers of men. (Psalm 96:2)

A. Following Christ will enable.

B. The central motive is Jesus Christ.

### **Application questions**

1. What are believers called to deny? Explain.

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2. What does it mean to take up one's cross? Why is this not necessarily a burden?

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3. What would your life look like if you were completely available to the Lord? Describe this in some detail.

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