

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 10:2-4.

INTRODUCTION: Consider the apostles ...

1. Before Pentecost. Luke 9:46-47; 22:24-27; Matthew 26:31-35, 47-56; Acts 1:6.
2. After Pentecost. Acts 4:7-13, 18-20, 31; 5:27-33, 40-42. Ten of the original twelve were martyred for the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. What was the difference? After Pentecost, the apostles really got what Jesus was all about and began doing what He really wanted them to do.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Jesus is not easy to really understand.**

- A. Jesus is Master and Lord. Jude 3-4.
- B. Jesus' focus is on the spiritual, not the physical. John 18:33-36; Romans 14:17.
- C. Jesus is all about love. 1 John 4:7-8. If we don't understand *agape* love, we don't understand Jesus and we don't understand real Christianity.

2. **Jesus is not easy to follow.**

- A. If Jesus is our Lord, we are His slaves. 2 Corinthians 4:5.
- B. If we are slaves of Christ, we must:
 - 1) Understand the will of the Lord. Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9-10A; Matthew 7:21-23.
 - 2) Do what the Lord says. Luke 6:46.
 - 3) Do what the Lord says when He says to do it. Luke 9:59-62.
 - 4) Do all the Lord says. Luke 1:5-6.
 - 5) Do only what the Lord says. Colossians 3:17.
 - 6) Always do what the Lord says. Acts 20:35, "You must ... remember the words of the Lord Jesus."
 - 7) Always give our best to the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24; Revelation 2:4-5; 3:15-16, 19.
- C. Even the apostles struggled from time to time. Galatians 2:11-20.

3. **Not easy, yes. Impossible, by no means!** Matthew 7:13-14; 2 Peter 1:5-11.

4. **Christianity is totally worth getting and doing!**

- A. The "forcing people to be smart" illustration.
- B. John 10:10B; Matthew 11:28-30.
- C. 1 Timothy 4:7B-11.
- D. Hebrews 11:24-26. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter because he believed that serving God, though tough in the short-term, would ultimately bring him greater rewards than all the treasures of Egypt. Though difficult, don't you think Moses got a lot more satisfaction out of leading the children of Israel to the promised land than he would have gotten if he he'd stayed in Egypt or Midian? Take it a step further. Where is Moses right now and where would he have been if he'd chosen to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin? Moses thought long-term and was blessed in time and eternity. If we'll do the exact same thing, we'll get the exact same rewards.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Are we, so to speak, before or after Pentecost Christians? Yes, Jesus is Savior, but He's also Lord and Master! Romans 6:1-4.
2. When we were baptized, did we really repent, i.e. really die to sin? If not, we just went down dry and came up wet. We weren't born again.
3. If, when we were baptized, we really did repent, are we still really repenting? What is Jesus to us? He must be our all in all! What is Jesus in our jobs, our homes, our church, and our hearts?

CONCLUSION:

When the apostles finally got what Jesus was really all about and began doing what He really wanted them to do, they were abundantly blessed in ways that really matter. That's why Jesus wanted them to really get and do Christianity. He wants us to do the very same thing for the very same reason. Let's really get to know Jesus! Let's really get busy doing what He really wants us to do.