

“Keep Your Eyes on the Goal”
Luke 9:51-56, page 1008

Introduction:

1. March Madness ended Monday as Florida and Ohio battled for the national basketball championship.
 - A. Stay focused.
 - B. Square up and face the basket.
 - C. “Look the ball into the basket/hoop.”
2. Keeping our eyes on the goal is essential in fulfilling our purpose in life.
3. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ following His painful death.
4. To understand Easter and the resurrection, we must go back to the beginning and then travel to the completion/Easter.

I. Why did God send His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth?

- A. Simple answer: Jesus was sent from God to provide a way that a sinful world could be redeemed.
- B. Jesus knew from the beginning what would be required of Him.
 1. Born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit. God/man.
 2. Jesus grew into manhood.
 3. Jesus was tempted as we are tempted.
 4. Jesus conveyed the message from God to the human race = Bible.
 5. Jesus lived a sinless life.
 6. He became the spotless sacrificial Lamb slain for the sins of the world.
- C. Jesus kept His eyes on the goal/purpose for which He had been sent.
 1. *John 12:23-24: “But Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.’”*
 2. *John 12:27-28: “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”*
- D. Jesus reached out to people in need.
 1. Healed the blind.
 2. Raised the dead.
 3. Forgave their sins.
 4. Fed the hungry.
 5. Did all kinds of miracles to reveal His divine power.
- E. We must remember Jesus came to earth to be born, live, and die!
 1. *1 Peter 1:18-22: “...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth.”*

- F. Death, however, without a resurrection back to life, is incomplete.
 - 1. Jesus kept His focus.
 - 2. He knew why He had been sent to earth.
 - 3. Jesus fulfilled His purpose. *Matthew 16:21: "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."*
- G. Today we celebrate the life journey of Jesus and how He reached the goal and fulfilled His purpose.

II. Why did God call the apostle Paul to be His disciple?

- A. I believe Paul struggled a little after he became a believer of Jesus Christ:
 - 1. "Lord, what do you want with me?"
 - 2. Paul soon understood what his mission/purpose was in life.
- B. In Paul's own words he explained why he was called:
 - 1. *Romans 1:1: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God..."*
 - 2. *Ephesians 3:1: "For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles..."*
 - 3. *Philippians 1:21: "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*
- C. Paul understood his purpose and stayed focused on his mission.
- D. Paul completed what God asked him to do and received his reward. *II Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

III. Why did God call you and me to become His disciples?

- A. This is a very important question that deserves an answer.
 - 1. What is our personal mission in life?
 - 2. Are we focused on that mission/purpose for living?
 - 3. What is our responsibility to God?
- B. Regardless of our age or where we live:
 - 1. God has a ministry for each of us.
 - 2. God has a work for us to accomplish.
 - 3. Become involved with people and minister to them.
 - 4. Make a positive difference in our world.
- C. Life is more than simply living and enjoying the blessings of living in America.
- D. God has a specific mission for each of us to fulfill!

Conclusion:

- 1. Living a dynamic Christian life is our way of saying THANK YOU to Jesus Christ and the eternal life offered to us because of Easter.
- 2. This Easter become an active minister for Jesus Christ and fulfill your personal spiritual mission. "Ten Steps to a Dynamic Christian Life"
- 3. Keep your focus and your eyes on the goal set before you.