

What Lies Ahead

Part 2: The Problem with Religion
Episode 60 || May 23, 2021



Main Points

- What we usually view as “religion” has nothing to do with Jesus.
- Jesus came to create something entirely new.
- Church is not a place we go or something we do. It’s what we are.
- When the Church focuses on Jesus’ mission... love wins and lives are transformed.
- Religion prioritizes “right” belief & performance. Jesus prioritizes people & love.
- We’ve been committed to our religious preferences over of Jesus’ mission to GO.
- We feel a natural pull toward religious thinking instead of simple Jesus-following.
- We can’t earn God’s love through performance or saying we believe the “right” things.
- The life Jesus offers is the simple freedom to love, not a complicated burden to bear.

Weekly Challenge

Read Matthew 11:28-30 this week.

Continue working through Acts 1-12 from last week’s episode.
Ask: *Have I been committed to the mission or to preference?*

Message Passages

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Mark 16:16-18

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen God working in the lives of yourself & others this week?
2. What stood out to you most in this week’s message? Were there any portions that were confusing or bothersome? Discuss reactions and highlights together.
3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. What does this mean for you individually and us as a group of Jesus followers?
4. In the context of being simply free to love this week, how can your group pray for you?

“Show Notes” Resources & Links:

Let us know you’re here!
[Transcript](#) || [Kids Stuff](#) || [Podcast](#)

Social Media Giveaways:
This week: Tacos Del Sur
Last week: [Shaka Brah](#)

Music we listened to:
[Heart Songs](#)- Weezer
[Mack the Knife](#)- Bobby Darin
[Wait for It](#) - Hamilton Soundtrack

Outdoor Party RSVP
Sunday, May 23rd, 4:30pm

Recommended Resources:
[Future Church](#)- Mancini & Hartman
[Irresistible](#)- Stanley
Andy Stanley: [Brand New, Part 1- Letting Go](#)
Andy Stanley: [Brand New, Part 3- Recycled](#)
Andy Stanley: [Starting Point, Part 8- Invitation](#)
Crosscreek’s [Jesus vs. Religion Series](#)

Suggested Bible Reading:
[Letter to the Galatians \(Listen?\)](#); [Colossians 2:6-23](#)

May FOR Salem Opportunity
[Meals FOR Teachers](#)