



## For Jesus' Sake

As Jesus trod the earth with His disciples, preaching from town to town, we might ask, what was the core of His message? “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near,” He proclaimed (Mark 1:15).

The Kingdom of God—a spiritual Kingdom—solid and real, unlike the temporal, materialistic, crumbling world around us. “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the Kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life” (Luke 18:29-30 NIV).

So often Jesus’ teachings confused the disciples because Jesus spoke in spiritual terms of an unseen, spiritual Kingdom with spiritual life eternal, and until the Holy Spirit filled them, the disciples thought in terms of the material realm, of things they could see with their natural eyes. But once they grasped the tangible weight of Christ’s words, once their eyes were opened to the fixed reality of Jesus and His spiritual Kingdom and the sacrifice Christ made so they might enter, boldness emblazoned them. They yielded everything, their possessions, livelihood, reputations and their lives so they and others might gain Christ, the only security, the only reality. For Jesus’ sake, nothing in this temporary world seduced them, riches did not deceive them, persecution and martyrdom did not intimidate them, suffering, weakness and materialistic lack did not discourage them. For Jesus sake they gave all, and through it all they gained Christ.

| Lesson | Study Passage                               |
|--------|---|
| #1     | Matt 5:11-12; 1 Pet 4:12-16;<br>2 Cor 12:10 |
| #2     | Matt 10:22-23; 24:9-13                      |
| #3     | Matt 10:39; 16:25                           |
| #4     | Matt 19:29; Mark 10:29-30;<br>Luke 18:29-30 |
| #5     | Phil 1:29; Acts 9:16                        |
| #6     | 1 Cor 4:7-16                                |
| #7     | 2 Cor 4:8-18                                |

### Key Verses:

*And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.*  
– Matthew 19:29 (NLT)

*Therefore I have cheerfully made up my mind to be proud of my weaknesses, because they mean a deeper experience of the power of Christ. I can even enjoy my weaknesses, suffering, privations, persecutions and difficulties for Christ’s sake. For my very weakness makes me strong in him.*  
– II Corinthians 12:10 (Phillips)

For each lesson, review and meditate on the designated passages, allowing the Holy Spirit’s guidance in answering the following questions. Record your insights.

1. What are Believers asked to embrace/do for Jesus’ sake?
2. What additional scriptures highlight this theme?
3. In what specific ways is the Holy Spirit leading you personally to respond “for Jesus’ sake?”
4. What do you believe the Holy Spirit is asking you to embrace within your community (family, ministry, business, congregation) “for Jesus’ sake?”

