

JESUS WAS FOCUSED

Part 5 of Simply Jesus

The Cornerstone Youth Group. October 29, 2025.

THE APOSTLES' CREED: WE BELIEVE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The one, holy, catholic Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

BIBLE STUDY: INTRODUCTION

Jesus was popular in Capernaum because he healed the sick and set the oppressed free from demons. He had to make a crucial decision.

Today's Bible passage will help us figure out what Jesus did and what we can do when faced with life's choices. How can we know and do God's will for our lives?

MARK 1:35-39 (CSB)

5 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.

36 Simon and his companions searched for him, 37 and when they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

38 And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come."

39 He went into all of Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

FOMO - FEAR OF MISSING OUT

Nothing keeps us from doing God's will more than FOMO. There are so many distractions and so little time.

If we want to be faithful followers of Jesus who do God's will for our lives, we must overcome our fear of missing out and get focused.

1. PRAY: FINDING GOD'S WILL - v. 35

After an intense evening of ministry—healing the sick and driving out demons—Jesus needed to **refuel** his spirit and **refocus** his mind and will. So, he went to a lonely place to pray.

Jesus did two things:

- He left the _____.
- He went to his _____.

Key Takeaway: The way to cut through life's distractions is to get alone with God in prayer.

Do not ask, “What do I want or what do other people want from me?”
Ask, “What does God want for me?”

2. PURPOSE: DOING GOD'S WILL - vv. 36-39

After spending the early morning in prayer, Jesus was refueled and refocused, so when his disciples told him the crowd was looking for him, Jesus was able to say no.

"Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do." - Steve Jobs (<https://www.ybgr.org/16-quotes-on-the-power-of-focused-effort/>)

Matthew 6:33 (CSB) ... seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,

It felt counterintuitive for Jesus to leave town. After all, the crowds were in Capernaum, along with popularity, fame, and needy people he could heal and set free from demons. But ...

Jesus wasn't into fame; he was into faithfulness.

Jesus knew God wanted him to move on from Capernaum to the other villages and towns to preach and teach about the Kingdom of God.

"This is why I have come."

Key Takeaway: When we know God's will for our lives, we must take the next step to do it. Then the next, and the next, and the next.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What steps can people take to find God's will and direction for their lives? How have you followed these steps, and how have they worked out in your life?
2. In your opinion, what stops people from following God's will and direction for their lives?
3. What are you unwilling to leave behind right now that is distracting you from God's will for your life?
4. What would you say to someone struggling to do God's will? They know what to do, but maybe they're afraid of the consequences, unsure of the next step, or lacking the commitment to do it.
5. This week: Would you be willing to spend 5 minutes a day alone with God in prayer, asking him to show you his will for your life?