

Road to Reality - Do We Really Believe What We Say We Believe?

by K.P. Yohannan

The sermon challenges listeners to examine their faith and make a radical commitment to Christ, living out their faith in practical ways and prioritizing their relationship with God.

Duration: 25:59

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 10:38-39, Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34-35, Luke 9:23-24, John 6:66-69

Topics: "Unbelief"

Description

In this sermon, Brother KP Johannon challenges parents and pastors to truly live out their beliefs in order to lead others to a life with God. He emphasizes the importance of giving up materialism and selfish living and instead walking with God as a way to inspire others. He shares the story of a young evangelist in India who started a church with just a gospel tract, highlighting the power of even small actions in spreading the message of Jesus. Brother KP also addresses the stark contrast between the luxury and excess in America and the dire living conditions faced by millions in other parts of the world.

Transcript

Welcome to Road to Reality, the radio ministry of Gospel for Asia. Today, Brother KP O'Hanlon asks, do we really believe what we say we believe? If we say that Jesus is Lord and hell is a real place, then how should that affect our lives? Please join us as Brother KP shares this strong challenge to truly live what we believe. 1st Peter chapter 2 verse 21, to this you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

If you read the following verses, which I'm not going to read, it talks about he committed North and all those things. And come to verse 24, he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. Knowing all about being spiritual, understanding all theology, read the thousands of Christian books that are available on every subject.

Buy a new CD every week with new songs and new music. Go to every seminar that is available. The counseling sessions, none of those things will make you a radical follower of Jesus that will not make you like Jesus.

The thing that will make you like Christ is your willingness, my willingness to embrace the cross, accept suffering and walk on the most rigid narrow road and walk, become doers of the word. Otherwise, we will remain like those people that day. Jesus, don't you know me? I went to church every Sunday.

I prayed for the sick, they even got healed. And I gave money, I did everything. I went to every seminar.

I was a very nice, wonderful American. Jesus said, I'm sorry, I just don't know you. You don't know me? No.

You knew all the answers. You said the right words. Everybody thought you are the most spiritual person walking on earth.

You even did wonderful spiritual gymnastics. You worshipped. But it was all product of the flesh.

It was all for yourself, you did it. When I was in mainland China some time ago, the Chinese brothers pulled out a bunch of color photographs and showed me of baptism service taking place in the middle of night in icy waters for hundreds of new converts. And they said, we must do like this because day time if you did it, we'll be arrested and go to jail.

Something that shocked me more than that was when they said, Brother KP, we have congregations all over mainland China, 500, 700,000 members, underground churches. And they said, we are lucky if you have two Bibles to the name of the entire congregation. I said, I didn't hear you.

Can you repeat that, explain that? They said, we just don't have Bibles. So we tear the Bibles, the couple of Bibles you have, 20 pages, 30 pages, give it to families, they can take it home, copy it by hand, bring it back, then they keep circulating that. They heard, they hear radio, shortwave radio broadcast, Bible being read and they copy that.

For 1.3 billion people in mainland China, not one Christian bookstore. You go to here, just walk out from your church, go out there, there's a door, Christian bookstore. In Dallas, Texas where we are, 12 Christian radio stations.

For 1.2 billion people in Indian subcontinent, there's not one Christian radio station. What I'm telling you, my brothers and sisters, is that it is wonderful to have knowledge, information, worship, freedom and all those things. But I tell you, unless you are deliberately careful, don't follow the crowd, choose the narrow road, embrace the cross, be real in your walk with Him, is all be just playing games.

The plastic, jellyfish, superficial Christianity, you are okay, I am okay, I am better than them, everybody is bad, I am just doing the right thing. I tell you what, we need to be very careful these last days because in America, the popular teaching is, take care of yourself. How can you and I, and I say this to you, love and grace in my heart, I am not beating upon you and biting your nose or nothing like that, I just am brother in the kingdom, I am just asking you, do you believe this Bible? You say, yes! Do you believe in hell? Do you believe Jesus is the only way for man to be saved? When Jesus talked about a man who died and went to hell, from there he cried out, he said, please, just all I want is a drop of water.

I am tormented here, in terrible agony, and I tell you, that man will cry for a billion trillion years, all he want finally is not water, but I just want to die and be over with it, let me die. And there will come the answer, you will never die, you will never die. That is the fate of multiplied millions today, on the way to hell, on planet earth, nearly 3 billion people that never heard the name Jesus, even for one time.

And you and I say, my Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine, for thee all the follies of sin I have resigned. Oh Jesus, I love you more than life itself. Do we really love him? And I say this to you, because the more we love the Lord, the more we understand him, the more we will become like him, not like somebody next door or some preacher or some church out there, we will become like him.

What did Jesus do? He deliberately chose the cross. He suffered. The Bible says, he learned obedience through suffering.

If you and I believed in the Bible, believed in hell, something else would happen to us. You heard about C.T. Studd? Anybody heard of Reddy's life? Born in England to a millionaire, world famous cricketer. In America you don't have crickets, do you? We have crickets, we kill them.

But it's a game, sports. Born again, baptized, Evangelical Christian. Somebody gave me a gospel tract, gospel note of Jesus.

Atheist, man who mock at the very idea of Jesus and God you talk about. And this man wrote, if I believed what you say you believe, faith in God determines the destiny of human beings, if need be I will crawl on broken glass all over the world until the last minute of my life and cry out this gospel. Husband, wife, children, hobbies, job, ambitions, desires, all will become secondary compared to the task of reaching this world with this good news.

Who wrote it? Not a preacher, not K.P. This atheist wrote that. When C.T. read that thing, he said to himself, this is funny, shocking. This man who says, if he believed what I say I believe, what he will do is this.

No more Evangelical, self-centered, please me, bless me, religion. He was convicted. He took his millions, sent to mission work all over the world, kept 600 pounds in his bank, English pounds, because he was engaged, now he thought he would get married and go off to the mission field.

His fiancé said to him, Charlie, what did Jesus say to you? He said, to forsake all and follow me. She said, then why are you keeping 600 pounds in the bank? The last 600 English pounds he took, sent it to William Booth of Salvation Army in London, then later got married, went off to the mission field, to die in a young age, Charles Studd. I ask you, when was the last time, when you saw 100,000 people died in Rwanda overnight, 200,000 in Bangladesh in the typhoon, 17 million people in Afghanistan without one church, one Christian, 22 million Northern Bihar without one missionary, over 100,000 die every day, and plunge into hell every day.

When was the last time you wept, you prayed, you fasted, you rather go for diet systems, and exercise machines, rather than fast and pray for the lost world? You realize half of the world go to bed with empty stomach, every day? You realize that 100,000 children walk on Bombay streets, not knowing who their parents are? You realize nearly 3 billion people live on planet earth, that never heard the name Jesus? And I say, Jesus I love you, and I don't want you to break my heart, because I want to be taking care of myself. Is it a strange gospel? No sir, I lived like that too, one time, long, long time ago. I had a library, I was building up with Evangelical Sound, wonderful library, thousands of books, books I may never read, but look nice.

Newsweek, Time Magazine, I mean, people walked in a house in Dallas, they saw in this nice, wonderful living room, with nice furniture, this sports magazine, I hate sports. Fishing magazine, I don't know what

that stuff is, but it looked nice. People thought this guy is smart, when they saw this expensive, leather bound book sitting on my shelf, I mean books, Shakespeare, I hate that stuff, but it looked nice, being American.

But you know what, with all my preaching, all my teaching, a seminary student, while in the ministry, I can't cry anymore, I was just like you. They talked about hell, it didn't touch me, it didn't bother me at all. I was buying the best clothes I can buy, from Neiman Marcus and other places, it didn't bother me, until one day the Lord began to speak to me and said, Hey son, you don't know me, this is not what I said.

Oh no, I didn't hear any voice through my ceiling, but I was reading the New Testament, the book you read, where he said, unless you love me more, than father, mother, son, daughter, even your own very life, you cannot be my disciple. Oh, if I were to make up those words, you know what some people say to me in America, this guy, where is he from? He's off the wall. He is here to put us on a condemnation trip, guilt trip, beat us up, get our money, get him out of this place, or crucify him.

They crucified him, because he said those words. Thank you for listening to Road to Reality with K.P. Yohanna and the Radio Ministry of Gospel for Asia. We'll return to Brother K.P. in just a moment.

Today's broadcast, entitled, Do We Really Believe What We Say We Believe? is a message by K.P. Yohanna, founder and president of Gospel for Asia. We'd like to send you a free copy of Brother K.P.'s most popular book, Revolution in World Missions. Simply visit our website at gospelforasia.org or call us at 866-WIN-ASIA We'd love to send you a copy.

And now, back to Brother K.P. They all walked away from him and a few remained. You read in the original text with sorrow. He says, Aren't you going to leave me also? And Peter said, Where are we going to go? You have the words of eternal life.

When majority saw the cross, the suffering, the inconveniences, the fasting, the prayer, the narrow road and at the end of all a few people saw that the way of life. And I tell you, when the Lord began to speak to my heart, and I say this no matter where I go, I prayed a very simple prayer that afternoon, kneeling beside my bed. I said, Jesus, take eternity and stamp on my eyes.

It was no more Greek and Hebrew and philosophy and psychology and new music. No, it was, I asked him, O Lord, I want you to change my heart that I will be set free from the selfish, self-centered, please me, bless me, religion. I want to know you.

And Jesus, and Jesus answered that prayer. He began to break my heart for the lost world and I started weeping non-stop almost for two weeks. People thought I got eye disease because when I saw India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, when I read about people going to hell, it was no more how I'm going to make me feel better.

Everything changed. I got rid of all the clothes I had except a few shirts and a couple of ties and a couple of jackets. The rest was sold or given away.

Brand new cars were gone. My house was gone. Life insurance, checking account, savings, everything, everything changed.

Not that I'm promoting you to do these things. That is not the issue here. You see, one of our native missionaries was working in Rajasthan in the northwest of India.

A Hindu man came and got a gospel tract while they were preaching. You know what a gospel tract is? It's like four spiritual laws. You know, it is in the Hindi language.

This Hindu man in his late 50s, a Brahmin landlord, very rich. He had cancer in his body. Not to bring shame to his family, he was running away to commit suicide.

After having written the suicide note, he was on the way to kill himself. And on the way, he got this gospel tract and on the street there he read, for the first time in his life on planet earth that Jesus died for him, that God came into this world, that he didn't have to die and go to hell. First time.

Just imagine. Process that. To live 50 years and never to hear the name Jesus.

And he said to himself, this is unbelievable. That I don't have to die. My sins are forgiven.

Jesus died for me. All I must do is believe in him. And there was a prayer.

He could pray the end of that tract. And on the street this man prayed the prayer to a God he never prayed before. And peace came into his heart.

He felt something happened to him. He didn't kill himself. He ran back home to Kota.

To the Rajasthan region where he came from. And then he went to the doctors. He said, can you check me again doctor? They said, you got cancer.

You are dying. He said, please doctor, would you? They checked him up, down, inside, everywhere possible. They said, are you the same person? You are totally healed.

Nothing wrong with you. What did you take? The guy pulled out the booklet he got from our native mission. He said, doctor, this healed me.

And the doctor said, we knew you had cancer. Now we know you are off your mind. But you know what? That man said to our missionaries.

After that he went to our mission station and said, I got plenty of money. I am a Hindu Brahmin. I am the head of my village.

Would you please come and make all my people Christians? How naive, how innocent. He just didn't know how it works. Two of our missionaries went with him.

Began to preach the gospel. Within a few months a glorious church was established. Land was given.

Money was given by that man to build the church. Now there is a church like here, worshipping Jesus Christ. You know how that began? With one little gospel tract.

You know how much a tract worth? Costs less than the chewing gum you chew during the church service. Or while you work or drive. You realize Americans can't stop chewing? The dirtiest polluted waters in America is maximum luxury for more than half of the world.

Come with me to Bombastri and show you millions drinking from the sewage that comes right out of toilets. And we install millions of dollars worth of equipments to make our water better. What's wrong with us? I am not saying you should not have filters and clean your water.

That's not the issue. But we are just super human beings God brought from heaven. Americans or special people in Germany and this and that.

You be nice people. Finally when you die I want to have you to be in heaven with me a special place. Oh how God must open our eyes to see reality of the lost world.

You know what? There was a time many years 18-19 years ago in America I was buying deodorant soap imported from Europe for this brown dark Indian. Deceived by demons. And when the Lord broke my heart, I repented for such selfishness.

I changed to ivory. Yes. 35 cents ivory man.

Instead of a dollar 50 imported soap from England. Why did I do that? So I would become super spiritual wonderful brother KP. Nonsense.

If poverty and having no shampoo and no soap and make up is being spiritual. You go to Bangladesh and Africa. I just came from Africa.

They are more spiritual. That's not true. I have friends who are multi-millionaires who walk with God, serve God give their money to reach the lost world.

I'm not promoting you live on the street and have no make up on your face. That's not the issue. But you know why I changed from the expensive deodorant soap to ivory? 35 cents to a dollar 50 that means 200 more people will hear the name Jesus.

For the first time I didn't have to have expensive imported soap. I used to go to a place during those days 12 dollars to get a haircut. That was too much.

Then when the Lord broke my heart I switched to an army place where they butchered my head for 3 dollars. I mean what happened was everything I did everything I thought about taking a vacation many times. I never did it.

I'm not against vacation. Please go for vacation. Go to India.

You know, I mean you work so hard during the year get all your money. Then you go for Grand Canyon look into that pit and then spend all your money and use a credit card come home. Then you work again and you're so tired by now you have to work to get well.

You realize the hardest hardest working American your life is maximum luxury for people by millions who live on the streets in Bangladesh, in Africa and on and on and on. And you are not an American, a German, Russian you belong to Jesus. Please don't write me off thinking that I have an agenda.

I have no agenda. All agenda, only thing I have is that you become radically real and God brought you here for that purpose. And you know, that change took place in my heart that many years ago.

I'm still on the same road. Not by power, not by might not by my reasoning, nor by His grace. And I challenge you my brothers and sisters, take Bible verses, not to interpret, explain and figure this out, but to live by.

You know, I wish this clock would stop, it won't. The same Charles Studd, C.T. Studd said, some wants to live within the sound of the church bell but I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell. That must be our commitment.

You know, I just don't know how to communicate in words. My English is weak also, but I feel in my heart, especially after spending a week in South Africa with 4,000 mission leaders from all over the world. We were talking about nearly 3 billion people that never heard the name Jesus and on the way to hell.

How are we going to reach them? And today my brothers and sisters, you can do something about it, I can do something about it. They don't have to perish like that if we will take our responsibility, our place. Let me make a few recommendations very quickly.

One is this. You get a world map put in your house. If you can't find one, call us, we will send you one.

We are making a very beautiful world map that fits in any house. You can color coordinate whatever you want to do with the thing. Let the world dominate your home because for God so loved the world.

Let radio, TV, whatever news you get become prayer letter for you. Hey listen, become a radical. My children grew up in America.

Both finished high school here. Straight A top students. From the time they were born, they saw world map and they grew with that.

And when they finished the high school, I didn't tell them go to the mission field. They could get usually almost any university or college in America with full scholarship. They chose to go to the mission field.

Right now they both are on the mission field studying in a Bible school to serve God. I didn't have to give them ski trip and hot dog trips and all kind of nonsense to make them spiritual. They saw their parents fasting, walking with God without beating upon them.

They saw tears in our eyes. They saw the brokenness in our heart and on our face. And they saw the reality.

Parents, the answer to your children is not bunch of new CDs and music and counseling Sundays and your pastor. The answer is you giving up materialism and ungodly selfish living and walk with God. And they will say, I want this life.

That is the way to do it. You're listening to Brother K.P. Johanan from Gospel for Asia in a message entitled, Do We Really Believe What We Say We Believe? If you've been moved by K.P.'s challenge to truly live what you believe, please visit our website at gospelforasia.org We'd like to send you a free copy of his most popular book, Revolution in World Missions. This is the story of Brother K.P. as a young evangelist in India and his calling to launch a worldwide organization, Gospel for Asia.

In it, you'll find stories of God's amazing work in the lives of people here in the West and on the Indian subcontinent. Thousands have written to us over the years with the same testimony. This book has changed my life.

For your free copy, simply go to our website, gospelforasia.org or call us toll free at 866-WIN-ASIA and request Brother K.P.'s book, Revolution in World Missions. Please listen in next week at this same time to hear Brother K.P. conclude his message entitled, Do We Really Believe What We Say We Believe? Thank

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