The Core of Evangelism · Lesson 10

Who Rules Your Life?

A question that seems simple… is it really?

We All Serve Something

Many people believe freedom means answering to no one. But Jesus shows us something different: "No one can serve two masters… You cannot serve God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Something is always ruling the heart.

Who doesn't spend life counting money? We also have a habit of chasing "success." Pleasure we seek almost without thinking, from good food to affection. Many people get lost in the maze of reputation, and fear often leaves us frozen in the same life for years.

None of these things is evil in itself. The trouble begins when they take the place that belongs to God, who is far greater than what we worry about and what we need.

There is no such thing as a spiritual vacuum. The question is not whether we have a lord. The question is **who** our lord is.

Repentance: Far More Than Feeling Guilty

Repentance is not crying. Repentance is not feeling bad. Repentance is not promising to do better. Repentance is **changing direction**. It is like a driver who realizes he is on the wrong road: it doesn't matter how sorry he feels, what matters is that he turns the wheel. What counts is not the sadness, but the destination.

"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).

That is why repentance is not merely regret over the past. Spiritually, it means coming back to God.

We are close to talking about the new birth, but it would be naive to get there without first asking why. As I often say: we can go down into the water and come up carrying the old self with us. The water has no magic. The change of direction must already be in us when we step in; the water is the setting where conversion happens: someone dies, someone is born.

Paul put it this way: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Not literally, but in spirit: after conversion, our mind seeks to line up with Christ.

Accepting Christ as Lord

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46).

Living in Christ is not an idea.

Many accept the words of Jesus. Many admire Him. Many believe He existed. But accepting His authority is something else. To accept the Word of Christ means to recognize His right to direct our lives.

We don't follow Jesus because we understand everything. We follow Him because we have come to trust Him. We don't obey because we grasp every detail of His plan, but because we trust the One who designed it.

If Christ is Lord, we will listen to His voice. If we listen to His voice, we will believe His word. If we believe His word, we will repent. If we repent, we will obey. And when we come to baptism, we will no longer be asking, "Do I have to?"

A Challenge for This Week

Pick one thing that competes for the throne of your heart (money, success, pleasure, reputation, or fear) and ask yourself honestly: *Which decision this week shows who my lord really is?* Don't announce it to anyone. Just change direction in that one decision.

Reflection Questions

1. What governs my everyday decisions more than anything else?
2. Has my repentance been sorrow over the past, or a real change of direction?
3. Is there an area where I call Jesus "Lord" but don't do what He says?
4. If He is my Lord, what keeps me from obeying Him?

Questions? adelzotto@live.com **search more? www.Juan832.com**