FULL CUSTODY

Scripture reading: Luke 14: 26-35

Intro: Sadly a good friend of mine has just gone through a devastating divorce. His wife wanted out of the marriage and he couldn't stop her. As we sat and talked, I ask him about his daughter

As we talked, he turned to me and said, 'Joe, I don't want to be a weekend father. I didn't leave her, she left me. I want full custody of my daughter.' I really didn't know what to say. I thought in my opinion he'd make a great full time dad, but we know that divorce is not good for the children. They kind of get caught in the middle looking which way to turn. He is a fine Christian man, so, I left him with a prayer and a shoulder to cry on if he needed it.

Not long after that conversation I saw a church sign board that said this:

'GOD DOESN'T WANT WEEKEND VISITATION - HE WANTS FULL CUSTODY'

- Too often in Christianity, that's about all that God gets. WEEKEND VISITATION- You know Sunday Morning only---Once a week is all some think about God.
- Even though Sunday is the first day of the week, the world sees the weekend as Friday evening through Sunday as the weekend and dreaded Monday as the first day of the week.
- Does God DEMAND full-custody of those who are His disciples- those that are members of His Body? Let's go back to our scripture reading. TIYB's to <u>Luke</u> 14: 26-35.
- Christ says here, that to be His disciple we must make a commitment that will endure to the end of our physical life on earth.

The question we ask our selves can't be; "What would I like to do, but heavenly Father what would you have me to do?"

The dying words of Paul reflect a Christian who had given full custody of himself to the Lord Jesus.

- His words reflect a steadfast commitment of his life to the gospel of Christ.
- Read with me in II Tim. 4: 6-8

Friends, in your lives have you given full custody of your life to God or does God only get weekend visits?

- Parents, as we think long and hard about this, what about not only you but your children?
- We encourage them to make the good grades, to excel in band, athletics, making good friends, who they date, what they want to major in when they do get to college, but what about their spiritual life?

- You see for a lot of children don't get excited about things unless they're parents get excited about things. As long as we as adults as parents stay apathetic about our children's spirituality, then they will.
- Our guys and girls who are sitting here are the future of the church.
 - Let's face it, do we want to send our babies out into this world unprepared spiritually?
 - I mean it's hard enough as it is, but to be out in this world spiritually unprepared—it's a scary, scary thing.
- Weigh out the difference you think an hour of one on one bible study verses one on one TV watching can do for their souls and yours.

Sundays are wonderful day for Christians. We have the opportunity to study the scriptures, sing, pray together, commune together at the Lord's Supper table.

However, most of our lives don't consist of Sunday's does it?

Most of our walk with Jesus is on Monday – Saturday

Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:"

We must be active as a Christian on M-Sat, and be just as involved as we are on Sundays.

How often do we as Christians, get off from work Mon. – Fri. or on a Saturday, and go out and visit the sick mentioned at church or in the bulletin?

Parents how often do we sit down w/ our children and read and talk about the bible?

How often do we seek out those who haven't come to worship in a while or try to send a card, p/u the phone?

How often do we encourage our young people to do well in spiritual things?

How often do we show hospitality and invite others over for a bible study? In fact, I had one our young people come to me and ask if they could come over and study one night.

But sadly, for many Christians, God has become a weekend activity instead of an entire life transformation.

Galatians 2:20, "

I speak in love to urge each of you to consider in your own lives, does God get weekend visitation only or does He get full custody in our lives?

II Timothy 2:15 Commands that we STUDY the Word of God to show our self approved.

Young people, how important is knowing the Bible?

- Parents, How about you?
- Then let's give everyone the encouragement they need to get involved with more church activities.
- Not only for our youth group, but with our little ones. How do we expect to grow our young ones into a strong youth group if we leave them out in the cold now?

Fiends you take out Sunday and Wednesday, but count M, T, TR, Sat.

- How often do you pick up your Bible?
- Are you setting time aside for personal bible study?

What are you saying preacher? Apparently, you don't understand my schedule. You have no idea how busy I am.

I can't study on my own, and I just don't have time. I can't get my children/child to a youth rally or to church to ride the van, don't you realize-----I'M A BUSY PERSON!! I'M TIRED WHEN I GET HOME.

- One question: Do you think Jesus was tired after He prayed all night in the Garden of Gethsemane?
- What about when they shoved the crown of thorns upon His head?
- What about after the Roman soldier scourged Him until His back was an open wound?
 - o Do you think He was tired as He carried that cross?
 - Do think He was past exhaustion when your Savior was nailed to the cross pierced in His side and thinking only of you?
 - o Was He tired?

Is this lesson making you uncomfortable? I'm not here to give you a guilt trip.

I am here to make us aware that if we continue giving God only the left- overs, what can we expect on judgment day?

In Mark 12: 28-31 (READ)

- Within that reading we are told, commanded to love God FIRST, not SECOND or third, but first.
- Perhaps we're giving the world more of 'us' than we're giving to Jesus.

The Big Problem is that too many Christians are giving lip-service to God on Sunday only.

- That's the reason people don't get visited.
- That's the reason Bible studies aren't held.
- That's the reason people get lonely as a shut-in or in a nursing home.

We have got to walk the walk and talk the talk Everyday of our lives!!!

Is there need for change in your life?

Can you honestly say, what **Matthew 6:33** tells us to seek first, the kingdom of God?

If those who know you best were asked, 'What is the most important thing in _____ life?

What would they say?

- Making Money
- Shopping
- Work
- Sports

What is the most important thing in your life? Many parents will say my children.

If they're that important to you then let's all take a more active role in their lives and in their spirituality.

Does God have full custody of your life, or is it just weekends only? Does He even get that much attention?

INVITATION:

Sadly enough, we are in a Spiritual Custody battle between satan and our heavenly Father.

The Good thing is you have the right too choose who you want to live with eternally. Consider your choice and then consider your commitment as we stand and sing.