



Unit 1: Withholding Nothing
Sermon Series Title: The Lordship of Christ
Sermon 4: I'll Take Him with Me Everywhere
Bible Passage: Colossians 3:13-23, 4:5

Background/Context

You don't take a day off from life's most important relationships. Life's deepest bonds guide the way you live every moment of every day. You honor your spouse, not only by the tender words you say when you are together, but also by the respectful words you say about each other when you are apart. Parents shape the hearts of their children by their presence and their absence, by their interest in their children or their indifference to them. "A friend," the Bible says, "loves at all times," even during times of adversity (see Prov. 17:17).

For Jesus to be Lord of your life, living for Him and loving Him must be much more than a weekly meeting at church, a percentage of your income, and a few words of prayer said before a meal. In the Christian life, Jesus must be Lord of whatever you do. Christians honor the lordship of Jesus by doing everything in His name, in a way that reflects Christ's character and reveals His character to others. Our faithfulness to Jesus as Lord expresses our thanks for His faithfulness to us in loving us and leading us each day. Christians take Jesus with them everywhere.

A. Take Jesus Home with You (Col. 3:18-21)

Jesus healed a man who, in gratitude, begged Him to let him travel with Him as He ministered. Instead of granting the man's request, Jesus said, "Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you" (Luke 8:39a). This man wasn't given an easier assignment than the disciples who traveled with Jesus. Taking the lordship of Jesus into our homes is one of the most challenging and rewarding missions we can undertake.

Our families see us at our weakest and worst moments. They know how very human we are. But when we take Jesus home, when we honor His lordship in family relationships, He gives us His grace and guidance. When Jesus is welcomed into a home, the wife can respect and respond to the servant leadership of her husband. The husband will be constant in expressing his love for his wife. Children will follow the guidance of Christian parents until they are mature enough to follow Jesus for themselves. Parents build up their children with tough love, but don't tear them down in order to control them.

Application Point: Long ago, Jesus told Zacchaeus, today I must "stay at your house" (Luke 19:5). If you take Jesus to stay at your house today, how will His presence change your family life? How will you speak to your family? How will you spend your family time? What will you watch on television? How will you honor Jesus as your guest and your Lord?

B. Take Jesus to Work with You (Col. 3:23)

When I was a college student, I had a job that I dearly loved, not so much for the work I was asked to do—answering the telephone, setting up equipment, and running errands—but because I worked for a lady I admired, a professor who poured her heart into helping foster parents and adoptive parents love children. No matter what you do to make a living, you can do it with all your heart if you do your work for the Lord, honoring Him in what you do and how you do it.

An employee who does his best, deals with others honestly, offers friendship and spiritual support to fellow workers, seizes opportunities to share Christ, and knows the joy of being Christ's ambassador to the work place. When you take Jesus to work, your workplace becomes your mission field.

Application Point: Make a small sign that reads, "Today, I'm working for Jesus!" Put that sign where you can see it while you work. How would making Jesus the Lord of your work life change the way you do your job? How would your attitude toward your fellow employees change? View your workplace as your mission field.

C. Take Jesus into Your Decisions (Col. 4:5)

Paul urged the Colossians to be wise in the way they related to unbelievers so that they might make the most of their witnessing opportunities (Col. 4:5). The word we translate *wise* describes an acrobat who takes each step attentively. Awareness of the opportunities you have to serve Christ will help you make choices that honor Him.

In Ephesians, Paul urged Christians to be wise in every area of life and then shared the key to that wisdom: "understand what the Lord's will is" (Eph. 5:17). We are wise to consult a physician about medical decisions or an investment counselor about a retirement plan. Christians show wisdom when they bring every decision to Christ and seek to know what He, as Lord, would have them do. Jesus gave us the key to seeking God in our decisions when He prayed, "not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Application Point: Think of a choice that you need to make in the near future. Take your Bible and sit down with an empty chair next to yours. As you study Jesus' teachings and example, imagine that He is sitting in the chair next to you, offering you guidance in making your decision.

D. Take Jesus with You into Your Conflicts (Col. 3:13)

Have you ever argued with someone as you drove to church, and then get out of the car pretending that everyone is happy? We don't want to take our arguments into the church, but, sadly, we also have a difficult time bringing the lordship of Jesus into our conflicts. Paul wrote that Jesus has taken the initiative and set the example in healing broken relationships. Through His death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, Jesus forgives those who trust Him.

Looking to Him, we can accept one another, imperfect as we are, and forgive one another when we fail. He calls us to love even those who, by their wrong actions, have become our enemies (Matt. 5:44). Following our Lord's commands, we can overcome conflict and be restored to fellowship with others (see Matt. 18:15-20).

Application Point: One of the toughest tests of the lordship of Jesus in a Christian's life comes in times of conflict. Do you honor Jesus as Lord when you feel attacked and mistreated by others? Do you know of something Jesus would ask you to do right now to seek healing for a wounded relationship?