



## I. INTRO/REVIEW

### A. Christianity is simple

**John 3:16 (NLT)** “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

### B. It’s simple, but it’s not easy

- Simple is uncomplicated, basic, and fundamental. Easy is effortless

**Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)** But without faith *it is impossible* to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

### C. Christianity starts with hearing

**Romans 10:17 (NKJV)** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Romans 10:14 (NLT)** But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

## II. JESUS CAME INTO A VERY COMPLEX RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

### A. Jesus stepped into a very complicated and polluted religious scene

**Matthew 22:34-36 (NLT)** But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

### B. Everything in life tends toward more and more complexity

- More time was spent arguing over what’s the most important thing than they spent doing anything!

### C. Jesus came to uncomplicate the complicated

- Jesus taught God as a father
- Shepherd and sheep
- I’m the vine, you’re the branch

### D. A simple offer of: “Come to Me”

**Matthew 11:28-30 (Message)** “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”



### III. FOLLOW ME

#### A. Christianity is an invitation to a relationship

- This is the difference between religion and relationship:
  - Religion says: Change and you can join us
  - Christianity (relationship) says: Join us and you will change

**Matthew 9:9 (NKJV) As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.**

**Acts 17:32-34 (NLT) When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.” That ended Paul’s discussion with them, but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.**

- Some will mock, some will believe, but there are those who need to hear more

**Mark 3:13-14 (NKJV) And He went up on the mountain and called to *Him* those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,**

- The first call, if you will, is to simply be with Jesus

#### B. Let the process work in you and in others:

- Follow, believe, obey

#### C. Are you following?

- Are you willing to take the next step?
- Do the one thing that you know you’re supposed to do

#### D. What’s your next step?

- Come back next week and listen some more
- Time to get in a group—connect and engage—ask questions
- Water baptism