

Kidnapping and Sexual Assault

The Ivan Mills Story

(Discipleship Lesson 24)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

I was raised in a Christian family that attended very legalistic churches. My dad always helped build the churches or repair them, so he was busy. My mother was a wonderful Christian woman who tried to instill a desire for God's Word in me.

I attended Christian schools for many years; but finally, as a rebellious teen, I dropped out, got a girl pregnant, and married her. This marriage lasted five years. We had three children, one of which I gave up for adoption. Once my first marriage was over, I married again and had three more children. I spent my time being unfaithful and running from God. I even spent two years at Rolloff Evangelistic Enterprises and toured with the "Master's Miracle Men" music group.

God gave me many opportunities to get right and serve Him, but I didn't want to. I didn't love Him and didn't know He loved me. I knew I would go to heaven because I had accepted Him as my Savior in 1981. I really knew I was saved (Rom. 10:9, 10, and 13)

In 1989, my second wife left me for another man, and I was angry! I tried to bargain with God to get Him to put us back together and then got angry when He didn't. I started using crystal methamphetamine. I had used it intravenously in 1979-80 but quit when I married my second wife. Even though I started by just snorting a few lines, it was only a short time after that I was using large amounts intravenously. I started going to and from Phoenix to pick up and deliver. I had friends with money to pay, and I had the connections in Arizona where I could buy. I thought I was in control of my life, but I was really just sad and alone. Something was missing.

I was arrested in 1997 for attempted kidnapping, assault, and menacing. A guy had stolen \$25,000 from my partner and me, and we hunted him down. He was leaving jail when I cuffed him; I was arrested on the jail ramp. I sat in jail for three days then got out on bail.

My lifestyle continued to go downhill. I was using drugs a lot, and I drove a truck so I could mask the trips [drug running] from Arizona and California to Colorado. I thought I was so smart, but I was lonely and running from God!

In April, 1998, I was sentenced to four years deferred sentence and four years probation. I moved to the Denver area to get away from the drug life (I thought). I started working as a temp employee, but would use the money to do drugs. I got sexually involved with men and women while I was high (and had no boundaries), or in exchange for drugs. One person I got involved with was a fourteen-year-old runaway that I thought I was in love with. I got caught in a motel with her, and she was naked. I didn't get charged with a crime then, although they found syringes and drugs there, but I had to report to the detectives' office. Later, the girl claimed I never touched her, but when I was asked to take a polygraph, I got scared and did what I always did. I ran. The girl and I were arrested in a small town in Connecticut, and I was extradited to Colorado.

The first plea agreement they offered was 103 years for second degree kidnapping and sexual assault on a child. After three negotiations, I agreed to eight to forty-eight years in prison. The judge (God) gave me only eight years. I gave my life over to God and have

lived for him ever since that time. Have I given in to temptation? Yes. Have I sinned? Yes,

but I now am in love with Jesus and filled with the Spirit. I still sin frequently, but I hate the separation from God that I feel when I do. I am to be released from prison in nine to ten months, at which time I plan to attend Charis Bible College and continue to lead people to Christ. I have been forgiven of SO much, and I thank God that I can be understanding and forgiving of others.

The many years that my mother spent praying for me have paid off (Prov. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”).

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read Titus 1:16. *“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate,”* and 2 Timothy 3:5; *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* Some would say Ivan was religious but not really saved in the sinful condition he was in. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

2. Read Acts 26:19-20. *“Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: [20] But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”* Some would say Ivan had no fruit or evidence of repentance so therefore could not have been saved. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. [2] I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. [3] For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”* Some would say Ivan was saved but was a carnal Christian. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 3:14-15. *“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”* Some would say Ivan was saved but would lose his rewards in heaven if he were to die in his sinful state. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

5. Read James 5:19-20. *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; [20] Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”* Some would say Ivan was saved but became lost when he turned from the Lord. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

6. Read Romans 4:7-8. *“Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. [8] Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”* Some would say Ivan was saved and could not have lost his salvation. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

7. Read Acts 11:26. *“And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”* Is a disciple a Christian? Is a Christian a disciple? Are these the same people or are they different? What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

8. Read Matthew 28:19-20. *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* Did Jesus call us to make converts or disciples? What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

9. Look at an exhaustive concordance if available. In the scriptures the word “disciple” and “disciples” is used a total of _____ times.
10. Look at an Exhaustive Concordance if available. In the scriptures the word “Christian” and “Christians” is used a total of _____ times.
11. Read Luke 14:25-35. *“And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, [26] If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. [27] And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? [29] Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, [30] Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. [31] Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? [32] Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. [33] So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. [34] Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? [35] It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”* The saving redemptive work of Christ was free; it was provided by grace. Discipleship costs something. What does it cost?
_____.

12. What challenged you in this lesson? What further study will you need to do?

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(Discipleship Answer Key)

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12 are to be answered according to your own opinion using Scriptures to prove your point.

1. Read Titus 1:16, and 2 Timothy 3:5. Some would say Ivan was religious but not really saved in the sinful condition he was in. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
2. Read Acts 26:19-20. Some would say Ivan had no fruit or evidence of repentance so

therefore could not have been saved. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Some would say Ivan was saved but was a carnal Christian. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 3:14-15. Some would say Ivan was saved but would lose his rewards in heaven if he were to die in his sinful state. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
5. Read James 5:19-20. Some would say Ivan was saved but became lost when he turned from the Lord. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
6. Read Romans 4:7-8. Some would say Ivan was saved and could not have lost his salvation. What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
7. Read Acts 11:26. Is a disciple a Christian? Is a Christian a disciple? Are these the same people or are they different? What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture.
8. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Did Jesus call us to make converts or disciples? What is your opinion and why? Prove your answer with scripture. The saving redemptive work of Christ was free; it was provided by grace. Discipleship costs something. What does it cost?
9. Look at an exhaustive concordance if available. In the scriptures the word “disciple” and “disciples” is used a total of **273** times.
10. Look at an Exhaustive Concordance if available. In the scriptures the word “Christian” and “Christians” is used a total of **three** times.
11. Read Luke 14:25-35. The saving redemptive work of Christ was free; it was provided by grace. Discipleship costs something. What does it cost?
Everything, your life.
12. What challenged you in this lesson? What further study will you need to do?

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10065 Sun Ridge Circle, Rogers, Arkansas 72756 U.S.A.
www.delessons.org