

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 65)

FIRST PRIORITY (CONTINUED). God threatened to remove the once Great Ephesian church if they did not repent and do the first works (Revelation 2:5). The fruit of the Spirit (love) was missing, because the Spirit was missing, not His person but His power. The church at Ephesus was a body without a heart. The priority of discipleship lost its preeminence. When someone leaves his first love, his priority becomes himself. The disciples at Ephesus became like the man who wanted to go with Jesus but didn't want to be inconvenienced. Radical discipleship is loving the Lord Jesus with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37). That is first love. That is first priority. First love is not our pleasure, but His. The world notices when we love. Priorities determine whether we seek to please Jesus or ourselves. Here is the lesson of the church at Ephesus: Priorities establish our pleasure. First priorities were given on Jesus' last night – love, the Holy Spirit, and prayer. They are what make disciples radical. Everything flows from our abiding relationship with Jesus. When love, the Spirit, and prayer are neglected disciples cease to be radical. It is a sign that a relationship with Jesus is no longer first. To keep our first love we must keep up the relationship.