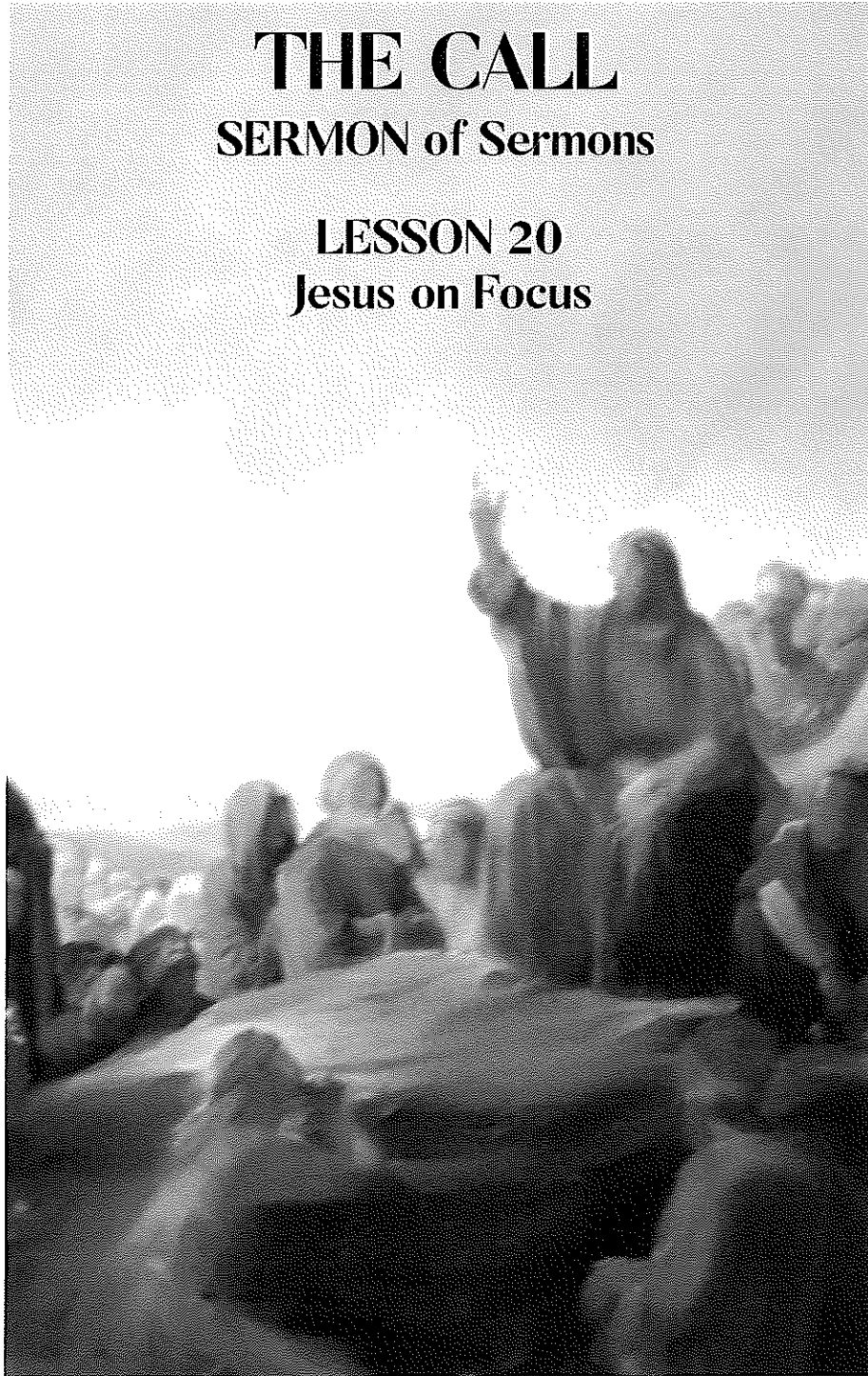


THE CALL
SERMON of Sermons

LESSON 20
Jesus on Focus



THE CALL

SERMON of Sermons

Lesson 20

Matthew 7:1-6, 12

Jesus on Focus

DO YOU HAVE A CRITICAL SPIRIT?

- A. People by nature are condemning.
- B. Why are we so critical?
 - 1. When we see the **faults** of others, we feel **better** about ourselves.
 - 2. It makes us feel **superior**.

WHAT DOES JESUS SAY ABOUT A CRITICAL SPIRIT?

- A. What does Jesus mean by His command?
 - 1. The critic sees the worst possible **motive**.
 - 2. The critic focuses on **petty** inconsequential **matters**.
- B. Christians are to have critical **judgement**.
 - 1. Christians have an **obligation**.
 - 2. There is a world of difference being **discerning** and **hypercritical**.

WHAT IS OUR FOCUS?

- A. What is Jesus' vivid picture?

"We find it so easy to turn a microscope on another's sin while we look at ours through the wrong end of a telescope!"

Unknown

- B. Why do we become **speck inspectors**?
 - 1. We have to see our own **faults**.
 - 2. We tend to forget the **log** in our **eye**.

WHAT IS THE CORRECT FOCUS?

- A. I need to see myself first.
- B. I need to see others with purity and compassion.
 - 1. I need to see through **self-judged** eyes.
 - 2. I need to see, **sensitively**, with great **patience**.

WHAT IS THE BALANCE OF BEING DISCERNING AND CRITICAL?

- A. The key is our motive.
- B. What is Jesus' vivid word picture?
 - 1. What **did** Jesus **do**?
 - 2. What did Jesus **mean**?
 - a. We need to become **experts**.
 - b. We need to know what is **appropriate** in each situation.

JESUS' FINAL WORD

- A. We see God.
- B. We see ourselves.

A CLOSING QUESTION