

Being Committed - Luke 9:57-62

I. Making Disciples

- a. Our task as Christians is to make more Christians
 - i. We are not on a frantic hunt for followers, but a meticulous search for disciples
 - ii. Making a commitment often brings with it hindrances to remaining committed
- b. We are very fickle people and tend to change to the path of least resistance

II. Impulsiveness

- a. Luke 9:57–58 (ESV) ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”
- b. “Actions based on sudden desires, whims, or inclinations rather than careful thought” - Dictionary.com
- c. Most retail companies make their money on impulse buying
 - i. Buy now, regret later
 - ii. impulse buys at the checkout counter
 - iii. upgrade packages on big ticket items
- d. A quick “yes” answer without really understanding what being a disciple means
 - i. Philippians 2:12 (ESV) ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
 - ii. “Work out” - being committed
 - iii. Knowing that Jesus is God’s son and that he is coming back to redeem those whom He purchased with His blood, we are to “work out” our salvation
- e. Count the cost
 - i. Luke 14:28 (ESV) ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?
 - ii. Our decision to become a disciple of Christ cannot be made impulsively
- f. We have made the decision to be a Christian; we know our ending, now is the time to work in His Kingdom
- g. God expects us to follow His son, whether we have a place to live or sleep

III. Reluctance

- a. Luke 9:59–60 (ESV) ⁵⁹ To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”
- b. Wanting to be a disciple, but not really wanting the responsibility

- i. "I want to follow you, but be free to do my own thing"
- ii. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV) ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.
- c. We are not "free" to do our own thing, we are slaves
 - i. Romans 6:17–19 (ESV) ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.
 - ii. We have committed ourselves to the 'standard of teaching,' to Jesus Christ
- d. We cannot claim the title Christian and not act like one
 - i. There are many examples of people who claim titles, but don't want the responsibility that comes with it
 - ii. Many people joined the military for the benefits, but when it came to deploying to a war zone, they didn't want that responsibility
 - iii. They were reluctant to complete their obligations
- e. We cannot be reluctant Christians, who desire the title but not the task

IV. Distractions

- a. Luke 9:61–62 (ESV) ⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
- b. Letting our lives get in the way of our discipleship
 - i. Matthew 12:46–50 (ESV) ⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. ⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."
 - ii. This is a very hard concept, but one I was able to understand due to the remote locations the USAF sent me
 - iii. Luke 9:23–26 (ESV) ²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.
 - iv. Denying ourselves is another difficult concept to put into practice... easy to preach, hard to practice

- c. Material wealth
 - i. 1 Timothy 6:6–11 (ESV) ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.
 - ii. Being content with what God has given us is the key
- d. Personal happiness
 - i. We often hear (or use) “God wants me to be happy” as an excuse to do the things we want to do
 - ii. I do believe God wants us to be happy, but happy doing His will not living a life of sin
 - iii. Philippians 1:27–29 (ESV) ²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,
- e. We cannot let the world (Satan) distract us from our Christianity, from being the person God created you to be!

V. What Kind of a Christian are you?

- a. Impulsive
- b. Reluctant
- c. Distracted
- d. COMMITTED