

Committed to Christ - Luke 9:51-62

- I. Introduction
 - a. Pig and Chicken: Commitment or Involvement
 - i. *A pig and a chicken are walking down a road. The Chicken looks at the pig and says "Hey, why don't we open a restaurant?"*
 - ii. *The pig looks back at the chicken and says "Good idea, what do you want to call it?"*
 - iii. *The chicken thinks about it and says "Why don't we call it 'Ham and Eggs'?"*
 - iv. *"I don't think so" says the pig, "I'd be committed but you'd only be involved"*
 - b. Definition: An agreement or pledge to do something in the future
- II. Main idea: Jesus was fully committed to our eternal salvation, and He calls his disciples to total commitment
- III. Jesus commitment – v. 51
 - a. The goal: to be received up
 - i. To be received up – ascended to have his atonement accepted at the throne of God for the sins of all mankind
 - b. The cost: intense suffering, shame and death
 - i. Before he could be received up He had
 - 1. To be given up – betrayed
 - 2. To be lifted up – crucified
 - 3. To be raised up – resurrected
 - ii. Luke 9:22
 - c. The present action: He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem
- IV. Our commitment
 - a. We are called to have a commitment like Christ's
 - i. Luke 9:23
 - ii. Heb. 12:1-4
 - b. But we are susceptible to flaws in our commitment
 - i. Over-commitment
 - 1. Example: the disciples
 - 2. v. 53-56
 - 3. Destroy any resistance!
 - 4. Our commitment must be firm but our words and deeds gentle rather than violent
- V. Under-commitment
 - a. Example: would-be disciples v. 57-62
 - b. He had Good intentions:
 - i. Receives a warning
 - ii. It won't be easy
 - c. Other things first
 - i. The funeral

1. How could Jesus not accept this reason?
 - a. Jesus did attend funerals
 - i. Jairus' daughter
 - ii. The son of the widow at Nain
 - iii. Lazarus
 - iv. Usually he spoiled them!
 - b. He had nothing against them
2. The ultimate reason
 - a. Because of the universal acceptability of this reason, it is sometimes used as an excuse
 - i. 20% of British workers admit to falsely claiming to need to attend a funeral in order to get time off from work
 - ii. REVIEW LAST WEEK'S LESSON
 - iii. An excuse is a reason that we offer instead of the real reason, because the real reason is less acceptable than the excuse
 - iv. We use excuses to shield ourselves and the one we are refusing from the pain or embarrassment that the revelation of our real reasons would cause
 - v. In the case of Jesus, that was impossible, because He knows our hearts
 - b. Jesus' response
 - i. Let the dead bury their own dead
 - ii. Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead
 - iii. He knew that if this man did not come now, he never would
 - iv. So He called him to leave his dead father and grieving relatives behind
 - v. Isn't that hard?!
 - vi. Isn't that asking too much?!
- ii. The farewell
 1. Why not?
 - a. Elisha – 1 Kings 19:19-21
 - b. If you have decided to follow Jesus, don't look back
 - c. Many have lingered to say goodbye to
 - i. friends
 - ii. family
 - iii. their old church
 - iv. and have never left
 2. Jesus' response
 - a. Plowing metaphor – don't look back
 - b. What if I have looked back? Am I unfit for the kingdom?

- i. No one is worthy of a place in the kingdom
- ii. As long as we are looking back, we cannot plow
- iii. As long as we have the spirit of looking back, we are unfit
- iv. But when we slaughter the oxen and burn the plow of our former attachments
- v. Then we are ready to work for the Lord
- vi. We are equipped with everything we need to be productive
 - 1. But there is one thing God cannot give us
 - 2. Commitment
- c. Isn't that hard?!
- d. Isn't that asking too much?!

VI. Conclusions

- a. Jesus is always calling us to a higher level of commitment
 - i. What would that look like for you?
 - 1. A change in the number of worship services you attend?
 - 2. A change in what you do in your spare time?
 - 3. A change in where you live?
 - 4. If you know what the next level of commitment is, don't hesitate, follow Jesus
 - 5. If you do not know what it would take to strengthen your commitment, spend some time thinking about it
 - ii. Some have no commitment at all to Christ
 - 1. They are just checking Him out
 - 2. Familiarity with Christ is not sufficient
 - 3. Involvement with Christ is not sufficient
 - 4. We need salvation Luke 13:23-27
- b. Raising our level of commitment
 - i. Contemplate the Goal
 - 1. Glory with Christ
 - 2. Eternal life
 - ii. Count the cost
 - 1. Daily cross-bearing
 - 2. Faithfulness until death
 - iii. Consider the Savior – Heb. 12:1-4
 - 1. He thought the goal was worthwhile
 - a. Does He know more or less about it than me?
 - 2. He thought the cost was worth paying
 - a. Was He wrong?
 - iv. COMMIT TO HIM
- c. The alternative
 - i. Rejection of the Savior
 - ii. We can't say, "Nothing personal"

- iii. With Jesus, everything is personal
- iv. He know our hearts
- v. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare Him the pain of rejection
 - 1. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare Him the pain of rejection
 - 2. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare us the judgment that awaits those who heard the call but did not respond by following Him

d. Invitation

- i. To you, Jesus says, follow me
- ii. What will your answer be?
 - 1. I will follow you wherever you go!
 - 2. OR Let me first do what is more important than following Jesus