

Subject: Discipleship
Text: Luke 9:57-62
Method: Expository

Titl: Decisive, Dedicated and Determined

General Purpose: Instruct concerning proper discipleship.

Specific Purpose: To give the sense of discipleship, its advantages and seeming disadvantages.

Thesis Sentence: True disciples must have a biblical approach toward three great challenges: materialism, tradition and family.

Introduction:

- A. Every disciple should strive to be the best disciple
 - 1. Mat. 5:13 - salt w/o flavor is worthless
 - 2. Mat. 24:42-51 - Unfaithful servant will be punished with other pretenders/hypocrites
 - 3. Mat. 7:21-23 - many have high expectations, but are destined to disappointment
- B. God has always required decisive, determined, dedicated discipleship
 - 1. Jos. 24:14-15 - Every accountable human being must choose
 - 2. 1 Kng. 18:21 - Elijah challenged people stuck in indecisiveness, between two opinions, an unacceptable condition
- C. Jesus requires decisive, determined discipleship, dedicated.
 - 1. Mat. 6:24 - Cannot serve two masters
 - 2. Mat. 12:30 - (Accused of serving Beelzebul) not with/against (Pharisees were anti-Christ)
 - 3. Rev. 3:14-16 - Lukewarm will be vomited out

I. Lk. 9:57-58 - Be decisive: count the cost/prepare to confront extremes - the more materialistic one is the more difficult discipleship will be.

- A. Homelessness - disciples must expect to be givers rather than receivers
 - 1. Enjoyed by animals, lacking for Jesus
 - 2. Disciple often cannot live the life his neighbors live
 - 3. Christianity is established in giving (Jn. 3:16; Eph. 5:25; 1 Jn. 3:16)
- B. Rejection is possible
 - 1. Isa. 53:3 - *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not.*
 - 2. 2 Tim. 3:10-13 - (esp. v. 12) *Yes, and all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
 - 3. Jn. 15:12, 18-20 - Love one another
 - a. v. 18 - only this will offset hatred of world
 - b. v. 19 - hatred result of Christ's calling (called out ones)
 - c. v. 20 - servant not greater than Lord, persecutors of Christ will persecute disciples
- C. The cost of disobedience is greater than that of obedience Lk. 14:25-35
 - 1. Failure of all life's endeavors is the cost of disobedience
 - 2. Surrender to the foe is the sole alternative to obedience

II. Lk. 9:59-60 Be dedicated: order priorities (Gen. 25:9 - Burying father seen as a sacred duty, i.e.: Isaac/Ishmail - Abraham) The more bound to tradition one is the more difficult discipleship will be.

- A. Jesus demands a proper arrangement of priorities
 - 1. Jn. 4:34 - Highest priority: Do Father's work

2. Mat. 15:8-9 - Nothing, not even dearest tradition, should come between the disciple and his Lord
- B. Give attention to being saved today, righteous today, and tomorrow will care for itself (Mt. 6:34; Heb. 3:15-Today, hear his voice, harden not heart; 1 Cor. 9:24-27-Run to win and maintain self-control -don't be a victim!)
 1. Put off old man-Eph. 4:20-27
 2. Put on new man-Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:9-13
 3. Lk. 9:23-Daily disciple; 1 Cr. 6:19-20-Care for the temple; 2 Tim. 2:2-teach others; Heb. 10:22-25-assemble and encourage; Gal. 6:10-do good to all; Jas. 1:27-continue in the word
- C. Be right kind of neighbor (Lk. 10:25-37)
 1. Do physical. good-Pr. 3:27-28; Mt. 25:31-46
 2. Good influence-Rm. 15:2; 14:21; Mt. 18:7; Rm. 13:9-10
 3. Concern for souls-Gal. 4:16; 2 Th. 2:11-12

III. Lk. 9:61-62 Be Determined: forge ahead - don't look back! Families may be a great help or a great hindrance

- A. Though perhaps well-meaning, although ignorant, families may sometimes hinder discipleship (Lk. 14:26-33), which must always come first
 1. Putting Jesus first will make us better family members (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
 2. Physical obligations to family must still be met (1 Tim. 5:8)
- B. Those who dwell on things past condemn their future
 1. Press on - Phil. 3:13-14
 2. 1 Cor. 15:58-Be steadfast; Mat. 24:13-Endure to end/be saved; 25:21- *Well done good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*
 3. Rev.. 14:13-*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.*

Conclusion:

- A. Decisive, deliberate, dedicated discipleship has always been required
- B. Pretenders won't make it to heaven
- C. Neither fervency of desire, nor sincerity in error will save the soul
- D. Every accountable person must choose this day who to serve
- E. We can be faithful, fruitful, successful disciples if we:
 1. Count the cost /prepare to serve whatever the price
 2. Order our priorities - Christ is always first
 3. Forge ahead/never look back

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