

The Gospel According to Jesus Luke 9:57~62, part 2

This morning I want to continue a series, that I have entitled, “*The Gospel According to Jesus*.” I have called it that, because much of the “*gospel*” that is being declared in our day, is nothing like the gospel that Jesus proclaimed.

Whether or not a man is committed, or faithful in service to the Lord, in the gospel of our day, makes no difference.

⁵⁹ *And he said unto another, **Follow me**. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.* ⁶⁰ *Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.***

At first rendering, it might appear that Jesus was somewhat cold-hearted with this man... One might read this and think, that this young man’s father had just died, and that he was simply asking Jesus if he could go and take care of things, and give him a proper burial. To which Jesus denied his request, and told him that if he wanted to follow Him, he needed to not worry about his dad, and just come and follow Him.

Though one could interpret it that way, that is certainly not the case... To better understand this passage, it helps to know that the reply this man gave to Jesus about his father, was an old Jewish adage, that referred to “*taking care of his father until he died*.” Basically, he told Him he couldn’t right now, because of some responsibilities he had back home, but that after that, he would.

Now don’t miss this...because this is vital in understanding why Jesus responded the way He did. Notice, the man implied, that *he would* follow him, but it would be a little while before he could, because he had some responsibilities back at home he needed to take care of FIRST...

⁵⁹ ...*But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.*

The issue here is...*Loyalty*... The young man’s request to go and take care of his father until he died, seemed admirable. I mean there’s certainly nothing wrong with taking care of your parent’s...right? Matter of fact, to watch over his father, and help out with things, would be a “*good thing*,” right?

But the point here is, to show more respect, to show more honor to your “*Earthly father*” over your “*Heavenly Father*” is not right!

For a young man to take care of his father, and his business, is very honorable! But...the point here is, it is *God the Father* that is to have the “*Supreme Place*” in a man’s life!

The issue here is “*Loyalty!*” ...*Suffer me first to go and bury my father.*

Jesus knew this mans heart... He knew this man’s *loyalty* was to his father, and taking care of the business of his father... It is given that, that we can fully understand the response Jesus gave.

(Vs 60) *Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God...*

It is in that statement, “*Let the dead bury their dead...*” that we grasp the heart of what Jesus was saying to this young man. It’s obvious his father wasn’t literally dead, but rather spiritually dead.

“*Let the dead bury their dead...*” is to say

“*Let those who are spiritually dead take care of the matters of the spiritually dead.*”

“*Let those who are “of this world” take care of those of this world...*”

But you (who follow me) must no longer concern yourselves with the matters of this world...but rather; your concern must be to the things of God.

The issue here has to do with our “loyalties...our commitments...our devotions”. With the emphasis being, to follow Christ, requires us to abandon all previous loyalties and devotions we may have had in this world, and give ourselves completely to Him and His things.

Christ requires our complete loyalty and devotion to Him. There is *nothing* or *no one* who is to take precedence over Him...*not even our family!* No doubt, He picked this man, to emphasize the fact, that to follow Him would require complete abandonment from this world, illustrated here at the deepest levels, in that of our families, if need be!

No human relationship is to take precedence over our relationship with the Lord...

(Luke 14) ²⁵*And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

Notice what it says...

²⁶*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother...*

(Hate-“love less”...word used to emphasize difference in love)

- *His wife, and children...*

- *His brothers and sisters...*

- *Yea, and his own life also...he cannot be my disciple.*

Christ is very clear, in that there is to be nothing or NO ONE to come between us and the Lord...not even those closest to us, our families! Our first loyalty, our first devotion must be to Christ and Christ alone! Christ is adamant that He be “*First Place*” in our lives... So adamant in fact, the He declares, that anyone not willing to do this...**CANNOT BE HIS DISCIPLE!**

Let me ask you...**Do you think Jesus really meant that? Is He speaking hypothetically, or is He saying that a man must do this...or he can't be His disciple?**

I believe He means it... Jesus demands complete and utter loyalty to Him, above all other relationships in the world. And makes it clear, that anyone unwilling to do that, cannot be His disciple. He is “adamant” that He have first place in our lives. And when you understand it properly, it's only fitting, it's only natural...because all it means is, He is Lord of your life. It simply speaks of the “*Lordship of Christ*” in one's life, referring to one's allegiance and devotion to Him above all others. Beloved, that's not a huge request, but rather that is a basic, fundamental aspect of the faith!

But yet...in our day, the gospel has been so diluted, so watered down, that the “*Lordship of Christ*” is no longer required! In the gospel being proclaimed in our day, the issue of loyalty and devotion to Christ and His will, is a non-issue! In other words, it doesn't matter, whether or not you are loyal and devoted to Him is irrelevant...just as long as you “*believe.*” Listen, men in our day have gone so far, as to classify people into two categories, two classifications of “*disciples.*” One, is those who put Him first, those who put Him above everyone and everything, yielding their lives in humble, loving submission to Him and His will. The other, are those who don't! He is clearly not given “*top place,*” His things, His will is clearly not their great concern, matter of fact, there is no real service at all, no real commitment...YET, those who propagate this view, say...but they “*believe!*” In other words, as long as you “*affirm*” the teachings of scripture...you're good.

Beloved...there is no such gospel! Well, there is, but it's just not the gospel according to Jesus... According to the gospel of Jesus, He must be LORD of your LIFE...or...He is NOTHING in your life! The very essence of the gospel of Christ, is to bring men and women under the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

Listen to me...many are propagating a "gospel" today, that does not require such loyalty, such commitment to Jesus Christ. It allows men/women to continue to live to this world, and to the things of this world, and yet, be considered "OK" with God, on the basis they "believe." Well, I want to say, that is not "**The gospel according to Jesus!**" The gospel of Jesus is a call to total surrender, one of total commitment and loyalty to Him above all things. It was a call to put Him first in our lives, and His will priority in our lives...with everything else and everyone else below Him!

For many, the price is simply too high...one that many are not willing to pay. And Christ knew this, He knew what He was calling for, was for many, simply too much to ask for, and something they were not willing to do. That's why He so up front with the multitude here, He doesn't want anybody to misunderstand what He requires. That way, know exactly what He requires, they can make their decision. True, given what He requires, it's only reasonable to think, that the number of people who are willing to do this, will be very few. But, even though the number is few, the point is, they will be His people! It will be genuine! These people will be sold out to Jesus Christ as Lord of their life!

The call was for complete loyalty, complete dedication and devotion to Him above everything and everyone else! Having declared what was required, He calls on them to carefully consider the cost. (Vs 28~32) He gives two scenarios to make His point...

²⁸*For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, sits not down first, and consults whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an ambassage, and desires conditions of peace.*

³³**So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

The point is, Christ demands the utter loyalty and devotion of men! He demands "First Place" in a man or woman's life! And declares, that anything short of that...**WON'T DO!**

³³**So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsakes not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

Everything and Everyone must be set aside, cleared away, making room for Jesus to have the supreme place in one's life... Anyone not willing to do that...JESUS SAYS...cannot be His disciple! I have so much respect for Him in this, because He simply wants to make it clear, that He must be Lord of their life, and the fact He will not take second, or third, or fourth, etc... The two analogies were aimed at the truth, a man should "*carefully consider*" the cost involved with following Him! Jesus doesn't want anyone, to have any "*misconceptions*," and start off following Him, only later, after realizing the cost involved, to turn away! That's the point in both analogies. The first, if a man desires to build a house, he'd better count the cost, to see if he has enough money...for it'd be embarrassing to start building, and run out of money. People would mock him. Point is, you'd better count the cost before you take off following Christ. For if you just jump up and take off, not knowing fully what He expects and requires, when you find out later, you will leave. And you will become the laughing stock of the people!

The same point is in the other analogy... No king would go to battle with another king, without carefully considering whether or not he can defeat him. Any one who does, and finds out later that their enemy out numbers them by double, he will retreat in shame!

The point Jesus is making with both of those analogies is that men/women need to carefully consider following Him! They need to know all the cost involved, what is required, what is expected... Before hand, that way they can make a good, solid decision! It'd be better to get all the facts, and decide that you're not willing to do what He requires now, before you start, then to find them out later, & turn away!

(Luke 9) Listen, with the first man we learned... This world is no longer our home... To follow Christ, to identify with Christ, requires us to leave this world, in the sense, we no longer "*Belong to it*". When Jesus said he had no place to lay His head, was to say that He was not "*OF this world*," this world is not my home. At the heart of it, He was speaking to His rejection by this world. He had just been rejected by the Samaritans, and now He was headed for Jerusalem, where He would be rejected as well. Listen, don't miss the point here, here we have "*God*" and "*This world*." Being that "*this world*" is a fallen world, dark and depraved, filled with sin, *it wants nothing to do with God!* They have their "*own God*," the "*God of this world, Satan*," and they are not interested in what Jesus has to offer, because it goes against everything they love. As long as they are in the world, they serve their own desires, their own lust, whereas with Christ, they must deny themselves those things. Therefore, there is no mutual agreement between this world and Christ. They are complete opposites, you are either OF this world, living to the lust and desires of your own will...or you have repented, and are day by day putting those things to death, in order to yield your lives to Christ. You cannot serve God and this World...

The point Jesus was making, when he said, that he had no place to lay his head, was that anyone who was considering following Him, needed to understand that! By identifying with Him, they too would have no place in this world, they too would be rejected!

But listen, that's not all bad... Given what this world is, and how it is completely opposed to God, then having no place in it, is a *good thing*, right? Knowing the truth of God, it doesn't bother me a bit, that I have no place to lay my head in this world. All that means, is I no longer live here. My home is in heaven, right? We're strangers and pilgrims, just passing through, on our way home.

Now here, with the second man, Christ teaches us, that to follow him requires the abandonment to previous loyalties and ties to this world. Listen, Christ requires complete and utter loyalty to Him! Before we came to Christ, we put anything and everything before Him. Now that we have come to Him, He requires there be *absolutely nothing* or *no one* before Him...**even our families!** Of all the relationships we have on earth, there is none so dear as our families! But even so, Jesus makes it clear here, that in order to follow Him, He requires precedence over them! The Lord takes "*Second place*" to no one!

Beloved, Jesus Christ is the Lord of heaven and earth... That truth is testified by the Holy Scriptures of God. And I would dare say, that very likely, no one in this rood would question that. But a question remains...**Is He LORD of your LIFE?** Is there anything or anyone between you and Him?

2 questions...

- 1) Where is YOUR home?
- 2) Where is YOUR devotion and loyalty?

If both answers are CHRIST...then you are blessed above all men... But if not...