

# ***THE SACRIFICE OF A DISCIPLE***

Luke 9:57-58

## **INTRODUCTION**

- In our evangelism we tell sinners of blessings of eternal life, of peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, etc.
- But we must also tell them plainly that true Christianity means suffering, sacrifice, self-denial, persecution, even possible torture and death.
- Anyone who is not willing to forsake all things, and endure all things, for the sake of Christ, is not ready to become a Christian.
- A Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- “A disciple of Christ may now be defined as one who believes his doctrine, rests upon his sacrifice, imbibes his spirit, imitates his example, and lives to do his work.” (Easton’s Bible Dictionary)
- But today’s version of Christianity makes no demands of sinners to repent of their sinful ways and submit to the Lordship of Christ
- It allows one to be a “Christian” without being a disciple of Christ.
- Churches are full of self-deceived worldlings who have no true love, obedience, allegiance to, or sacrifice for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus, in His day, had multitudes of followers who only followed Him for what He could do for them – heal them, feed them, etc, but they were not true disciples.
- So the Lord had to teach them what it truly meant to be His disciple (Luke 14:26-33)
- These, and many other “hard sayings” about the cost of discipleship turned these freeloaders away (John 6:66)

- In Luke 9:57-62, we encounter three apparent disciples of Christ, who, like many in our day, seem to all appearances to be true followers of Christ.
- Yet the Lord confronts and exposes the insincerity of their faith, and teaches us three important lessons on what true discipleship is – the sacrifice of a disciple, the priority of a disciple, and the resolve of a disciple.
- Today we will study the first of these three.

## **I. THE SCRIBE'S ENTHUSIASTIC ASSURANCE**

### **A. This man was a scribe (Matthew 8:19)**

1. The scribes were highly educated experts in Jewish law, who taught the people and gave judgment on legal matters
2. They supplanted God's law with their tradition, and were largely opposed to Christ
3. Yet some of them it seems were caught up with Christ's widespread popularity and attached themselves to His followers

### **B. There is much to commend in his declaration**

1. It was a confession of Christ as Lord (Colossians 2:6)
2. It was a declaration of his own free will
  - a. From the beginning, God has given man a free will to choose or reject Him
3. It was firm and resolute
4. It was unreserved

## **II. THE SAVIOUR'S EXPOSING ANSWER**

### **A. See the Lord's humble humanity**

1. He was born and raised in a poor family (Luke 2:24 Leviticus 12:8)
2. He made Himself of no reputation (Philippians 2:7)
3. He became poor for our sakes, that we might be rich (2 Corinthians 8:9)
4. This was not a statement of complaint, but of joy, that He had no worldly ties to hold Him back from doing the Father's will
5. In His poverty He shows us the vanity of worldly wealth, and teaches us to look upon it with a holy contempt

B. There is a cost of discipleship

1. Christ taught in plain terms that following Him involves suffering and hardship (Matthew 10:22-25; Mark 10:30; John 16:33)
2. He showed by His example that His way was one of rejection and persecution (cf. Luke 9:53; 1 Peter 2:21)
3. The godly in all ages have suffered for their faith (Hebrews 11:35-38)
4. The Christian is promised persecution and is called to endure hardness (2 Timothy 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:3)
5. Many fail to count the cost of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33)
6. He made his decision hastily and impulsively (Proverbs 29:20)
7. He was like the seed that fell upon stony places (Matthew 13:20-21)

C. Good intentions count for little

1. Few "I wills" actually become "I have dones"
2. God is interested in our actions, not merely our intentions

3. "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof" (Ecclesiastes 7:8)
4. "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off." (1 Kings 20:11)

#### D. The Lord exposes dubious motives

1. By highlighting poverty and material hardship, the Lord revealed this man's covetous heart
  - a. At one point in Christ's ministry it was said, "the world is gone after him"
  - b. Many followed Christ, thinking they would gain materially from so doing
  - c. Such suppose that "gain is godliness" (1 Timothy 6:5)
2. Even the disciples fell into this trap of following Christ for wrong motives (Mark 10:43-45)
3. Not everyone who calls Christ "Lord" shall enter into the kingdom (Matthew 7:21-23)

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Abraham had to choose between his only son and obedience to God (Genesis 22:1-14)
2. Moses had to choose between the treasures of Egypt and the reproaches of Christ (Hebrews 11:23-27)
3. The rich young ruler had to choose between his riches and Christ (Matthew 19:16-22)
4. Every one of us must make that same choice in our lives.
5. Are you enduring hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, or have you become entangled with the affairs of this life? (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
6. What is your motive in following Christ – worldly gain, man's approval, or is it from a "true heart" (Hebrews 10:22)