

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR  
HAS COME, WEEK 74

TITLE: COUNT THE COST!

TEXT: LUKE 9:57-62

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE GOSPEL JESUS  
PROCLAIMED WAS A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP, A  
CALL TO FOLLOW HIM IN SUBMISSIVE  
OBEDIENCE, NOT JUST A PLEA TO MAKE A  
DECISION OR PRAY A PRAYER.

**\* OUR LORD'S WORDS ABOUT ETERNAL LIFE**  
WERE INVARIABLY ACCOMPANIED BY  
WARNINGS TO THOSE WHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED  
TO TAKE SALVATION LIGHTLY.

\*\* JESUS TAUGHT THAT THE COST OF  
FOLLOWING HIM IS HIGH, THAT THE WAY IS  
NARROW AND FEW FIND IT, QUOTE MATTHEW  
7:13&14. (QUOTE)

\*\*\* NOW JESUS ALSO SAID MANY WHO CALL HIM LORD WILL BE FORBIDDEN FROM ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, HE SAID IN MATTHEW 7:21 (QUOTE IT THROUGH V. 23).

\*\*\*\* NOW WITH THOSE VERSES BEFORE US, JESUS NEVER SUGARCOATED HIS MESSAGE, HE NEVER WATERED IT DOWN, HE NEVER MADE IT EASY TO BECOME HIS FOLLOWER, HE NEVER CHEAPENED GRACE OR CALLED PEOPLE TO A THEOLOGY OF EASY BELIEVISM OR TRY ME EVANGELISM.

(2) YET TODAY THERE ARE THOSE WHO TEACH THAT OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION ARE EXTRANEIOUS TO SAVING FAITH AND IN TURN MAKE A FIRM BUT UNBIBLICAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP.

\* THIS DICHOTOMY, THIS SEPARATION, LIKE THAT OF THE CARNAL/SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN, SETS UP TWO CLASSES OF CHRISTIANS: BELIEVERS ONLY AND TRUE DISCIPLES.

\*\* YET MOST WHO HOLD THIS POSITION DISCARD THE EVANGELISTIC INTENT OF VIRTUALLY EVERY RECORDED INVITATION OF JESUS, SAYING THOSE APPLY TO DISCIPLESHIP, NOT TO SALVATION.

**\*\*\* JAMES BOICE, IN HIS BOOK, "CHRIST'S CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP" WRITES WITH INSIGHT ABOUT THE SALVATION/DISCIPLESHIP DICHOTOMY, WHICH HE FRANKLY DESCRIBES AS "DEFECTIVE THEOLOGY".**

**\*\*\*\* HE SAID: "THIS THEOLOGY SEPARATES FAITH FROM DISCIPLESHIP AND GRACE FROM OBEDIENCE. IT TEACHES THAT JESUS CAN BE RECEIVED AS ONE'S SAVIOR WITHOUT BEING RECEIVED AS ONE'S LORD.**

(3) THIS IS A COMMON DEFECT IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY. IN DAYS OF HARDSHIP, PARTICULARLY PERSECUTION, THOSE WHO ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING CHRISTIANS COUNT THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP CAREFULLY BEFORE TAKING UP THE CROSS OF THE NAZARENE.

\* PREACHERS DO NOT BEGUILE THEM WITH FALSE PROMISES OF AN EASY LIFE OR INDULGENCE OF SINS. BUT IN GOOD TIMES, THE COST DOES NOT SEEM SO HIGH, AND PEOPLE TAKE THE NAME OF CHRIST WITHOUT UNDERGOING THE RADICAL TRANSFORMATION **OF LIFE THAT TRUE CONVERSION IMPLIES.**" (END QUOTE) HOW TRUE!!

\*\* FOLKS, THE CALL TO CALVARY, THE CALL TO FOLLOW CHRIST, THE CALL TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN MUST BE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT IT IS: A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.

\*\*\* AND TO RESPOND TO THAT CALL IS TO BECOME A TRUE BELIEVER. ANYTHING LESS IS SIMPLY UNBELIEF.

\*\*\*\* THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS PREACHED RULES OUT EASY-BELIEVISM. AND TO MAKE OUR **LORD'S DIFFICULT DEMANDS APPLY ONLY TO A** HIGHER CLASS OF CHRISTIANS BLUNTS THE FORCE OF HIS ENTIRE MESSAGE.

4) IT MAKES ROOM FOR A CHEAP AND MEANINGLESS FAITH, A FAITH THAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT ON THE FLESHLY LIFE OF SIN. AND THAT IS NOT SAVING FAITH!

\* BELOVED WHEN JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES, HE CAREFULLY INSTRUCTED THEM ABOUT THE COST OF FOLLOWING HIM. HE COMMUNICATED FOR THEM TO COUNT THE COST.

\*\* AND THE STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT MAKES THAT CRYSTAL CLEAR. AND OUR TEXT TODAY COMMUNICATES TO THREE MEN WHO WERE OUTWARDLY FOLLOWING JESUS AT THIS TIME, THE HIGH COST OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

\*\*\* IN LUKE 9:57-62, LUKE SHOWS US THREE OF THE THINGS THAT OFTEN KEEP PEOPLE FROM GENUINE CONVERSION OR SALVATION: PERSONAL COMFORT, PERSONAL RICHES AND PERSONAL RELATIONS.

**\*\*\*\* AND BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY TODAY, "COUNT THE COST!"**

(5) AND IN OUR MESSAGE **TODAY WE'LL LOOK** AT 3 POINTS AS WE STUDY LUKE 9:57-62. NO. 1 THE CHALLENGE BY JESUS TO A SCRIBE, VV. 57&58; NO. 2 THE CONCERN OF AN OUTWARD FOLLOWER OF JESUS, VV. 59&60; AND NO. 3 THE CONTRADICTION OF THE THIRD **MAN'S REQUEST**, VV. 61&62.

\* AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION THIS MORNING, LOOK AT V. 57 **WHERE WE'LL START** TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE CHALLENGE.

I. THE CHALLENGE, (READ V. 57)

A. NOW MATTHEW DESCRIBES THIS SOMEONE AS A SCRIBE IN HIS PARALLEL ACCOUNT IN MATTHEW 8:19, SO THIS SCRIBE COMES TO JESUS, AND THE QUESTION COMES UP AT THIS POINT, WHO WERE THE SCRIBES?

\* WELL, THE SCRIBES WERE AUTHORITIES IN JEWISH LAW, AND WERE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHARISEES. THEY WERE HIGHLY EDUCATED AND WERE THE SCHOLARLY CLASS OF JEWISH SOCIETY.

\*\* THE SCRIBES WERE FIERCELY LOYAL TO THE SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS THAT MANY OF THEIR FORERUNNERS HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVISING.

\*\*\* AND TYPICALLY THE SCRIBES WERE TEACHERS, TEACHERS OF THE LAW, NOT FOLLOWERS OF TEACHERS, AND THEY WERE ESPECIALLY RELUCTANT TO FOLLOW A TEACHER SUCH AS CHRIST, WHO NOT ONLY WAS NOT EDUCATED IN A RABBINICAL SCHOOL BUT ACTUALLY DENOUNCED THE TRADITIONS THEY EXALTED.

\*\*\*\* NOW THIS SCRIBE COMES TO JESUS AND **SAYS "TEACHER" OR "MASTER" IN MATTHEW'S** COMPANION TEXT IN MATTHEW 8:19 LIT. MEANING RABBI AND THIS GREEK WORD IS EVEN TRANSLATED DOCTOR IN ANOTHER TEXT IN THE KJV.

**1. SO IT'S A TITLE OF RESPECT AND WAS A** CONSIDERABLE CONCESSION IN ITSELF, AND NO DOUBT THE CROWD, AND FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, WERE IMPRESSED THAT THE LORD WAS SPOKEN TO SO FAVORABLY BY ONE OF THE JEWISH LEADERS.

**\* AND THIS SCRIBE SAYS, TEACHER, RABBI, "I WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO." WHAT** A STATEMENT. THE DISCIPLES WERE PROBABLY DOING FLIP FLOPS, A DOOR HAD OPENED INTO THE UPPER ESCALON OF JUDAISM.

\*\* AND NO DOUBT THIS MAN BELIEVED WHAT HE SAID TO JESUS WAS TRUE, JUST AS PETER WAS LATER CONVINCED IN HIS OWN MIND THAT HE WOULD NOT FORSAKE JESUS OR DENY JESUS.



\*\*\* BUT LET ME SAY THAT NEITHER MAN, PETER OR THIS SCRIBE, KNOW THEMSELVES AS WELL **AS THEY THOUGHT. AND I BELIEVE PETER'S ACTIONS LATER ON WILL PROVE THAT AND CHRIST'S RESPONSE TO THIS MAN** IN V. 58 AT LEAST SUGGESTS IT.

\*\*\*\* AND MOST LIKELY THIS SCRIBE MAY HAVE SINCERELY THOUGHT THAT JESUS WAS THE GREATEST TEACHER HE HAD EVER HEARD AND THE GREATEST MIRACLE WORKER THE WORLD HAD EVER SEEN.

**2. HE PROBABLY RECOGNIZED THAT JESUS' TEACHING AND POWER WERE FROM GOD AND THAT HE WAS IN SOME UNIQUELY SPECIAL WAY GOD'S MAN FOR THE HOUR.**

\* HE FOUND JESUS APPEALING AND WANTED TO **BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM, SO HE SAID, "I WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."**

\*\* NOW DID HE REALIZE WHAT HE WAS SAYING?  
**I DON'T THINK SO FOR NOTICE THE CHALLENGE**  
THAT JESUS GIVES HIM IN V. 58, THE  
CHALLENGE. LOOK AT V. 58 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 58

A. NOW IN ESSENCE JESUS CHALLENGES THIS  
**SCRIBE'S STATEMENT BY TELLING HIM TO**  
COUNT THE COST.

\* JESUS WANTS THIS MAN TO UNDERSTAND THE  
TRUE IMPLICATIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP, OF  
FOLLOWING HIM. AND HE DOES NOT VERBALLY  
**QUESTION THIS SCRIBE'S SINCERITY BUT** SIMPLY  
MENTIONS SOME DEMANDS OF TRUE  
DISCIPLESHIP THIS MAN HAD NOT CONSIDERED.

\*\* FOR YOU SEE JESUS WAS OMNISCIENT, HE  
**COULD READ THIS MAN'S MIND AND SO HE**  
FORCED HIM TO FACE THE UNPLEASANT  
REALITY OF DISCOMFORT, SOMETHING HE DID  
NOT SEE IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE FANFARE UP  
TO THIS POINT.

\*\*\* THE FOXES HAVE HOLES TO LIVE IN, AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR HAVE NESTS TO WHICH THEY CAN RETURN TO, BUT THE SON OF MAN DOES NOT HAVE HIS OWN PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD ON.

\*\*\*\* JESUS WAS SAYING **"I'M HOMELESS."** I **DON'T EVEN OWN** A HOME OR HAVE A HOME. **BELOVED JESUS WOULD GO TO PETER'S HOME, HE STAYED AT MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS' HOME** AT BETHANY, HE WOULD SPEND THE NIGHT IN THE MOUNT OF OLIVES, BUT HE HAD NO PLACE TO CALL HIS OWN. HE HAD NO FIXED HABITATION, HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE MOVE.

**1. BELOVED, IN CHRIST'S HUMBLING HIMSELF** AND BECOMING A MAN HE DID NOT EVEN HAVE THE BASIC COMFORTS OF LIFE!

\* JESUS WAS BORN IN A BORROWED STABLE AND HIS BODY AFTER DEATH WAS PLACED IN A **BORROWED TOMB, AND IN MINISTRY HE DIDN'T** HAVE HIS OWN PLACE.

\*\* JESUS WANTED THIS SCRIBE TO COUNT THE COST. HE WANTED THIS MAN TO TAKE STOCK OF THE GENUINENESS OF HIS VERBAL COMMITMENT.

\*\*\* AND IMPRESSIVE WORDS OF AFFIRMATION ARE EASY TO MAKE, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE DOES NOT KNOW THE COST OF BEING A TRUE FOLLOWER OF JESUS.

\*\*\*\* THE LORD KNEW THAT THE INITIAL DECLARED FAITH OF MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS WAS SHALLOW AND SUPERFICIAL. JESUS DID NOT DASH AROUND THE COUNTRYSIDE ATTEMPTING TO GET MANY PROFESSIONS OF FAITH, HE WANTED TRUE FOLLOWERS WHO UNDERSTOOD THE COST OF FOLLOWING HIM.

2. AND NO DOUBT BEFORE THESE WORDS THE SCRIBE WAS CAPTIVATED BY CHRIST. HE SAW THE MIRACLES, THE CROWDS, THE POTENTIAL POWER AND PRESTIGE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL. THE SCRIBE WAS IMPRESSED WITH JESUS. HE WANTED TO JUMP ON THE JESUS BANDWAGON. LOOK AT ALL THE BENEFITS.

\* BUT JESUS BROUGHT HIM BACK TO REALITY AND THE HARD DEMANDS OF BEING A TRUE BELIEVER, A TRUE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.

\*\* JESUS WAS REMINDING THIS MAN THERE WOULD BE SACRIFICE, SELF-DENIAL, SUFFERING AND SERVICE BY ONE SIMPLE STATEMENT. HERE JESUS KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THIS MAN NEEDED TO HEAR.

\*\*\* AND UNLIKE MANY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS TODAY, WHO ARE EAGER TO EMBRACE ANY FAMOUS PERSONALITY WHO MAKES A PROFESSION OF CHRIST, JESUS KNEW THAT A STRONG PROFESSION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN GENUINE SALVATION.

\*\*\*\* BUT THIS GUY IN OUR DAY WOULD HAVE BEEN ENLISTED TO BE ON A BOARD OF SOME CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION OR THE BOARD OF A CHURCH AND WOULD PROBABLY BE PREACHING ON TRINITY BROADCASTING AND HAVE A BOOK DEAL.

- **AND I DON'T THINK WHAT I'M SAYING IS TOO FAR FETCHED.**

**3. WELL, JESUS DOESN'T SOFTEN THE DEMANDS TO GET THIS SCRIBE ON BOARD AND HE DOESN'T SUGARCOAT THE MESSAGE, TRYING TO MAKE IT APPEAR TO BE LESS DEMANDING THAN IT IS. JESUS WAS NOT OUT FOR PROFESSIONS BUT CHANGE AND HIS MESSAGE WAS RADICAL.**

**\* AND LET ME SAY TWO THINGS AND I'LL MOVE ON TO OUR SECOND POINT TODAY. NO. 1 IT DOES NOT SAY IN THIS TEXT WHETHER THIS MAN BECAME A TRUE BELIEVER OR NOT.**

\*\* I WOULD SUGGEST THAT NOTHING SAID COMMUNICATES THAT HE DID NOT. FOR IN MATTHEW 4 WHEN JESUS CALLED PETER AND ANDREW TO FOLLOW HIM, THEY DID AND IMMEDIATELY LEFT THEIR NETS AND FOLLOWED CHRIST.

\*\*\* AND IN MATTHEW 4 WHEN JESUS CALLED JAMES AND JOHN TO FOLLOW HIM THEY IMMEDIATELY LEFT THEIR BOAT AND THEIR FATHER TO FOLLOW HIM, THE SCRIPTURES RECORD THAT BUT WITH THIS SCRIBE NOTHING IS RECORDED. AND THERE IS NO ROOM FOR DOGMATISM HERE, BUT IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS SCRIBE UNDERSTOOD WHAT JESUS MEANT AND NO LONGER PROFESSED FAITH. HE KNEW THE HIGH COST AND WAS NOT WILLING TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO CHRIST.

\*\*\* THEN NO. 2, IN V. 58, LUKE RECORDED JESUS CALLING HIMSELF THE SON OF MAN, AGAIN **CHRIST'S FAVORITE DESIGNATION FOR HIMSELF** IN THE GOSPELS USED APPROXIMATELY 81 TIMES.

\*\*\*\* AND THE TERM SON OF GOD SPEAKS OF **JESUS' DEITY WHEREAS SON OF MAN** EMPHASIZES HIS HUMILIATION, HIS HUMANITY AS THE MESSIAH.

4. AND IT WAS MOST APPROPRIATE FOR JESUS TO USE THAT TITLE HERE IN THIS CONTEXT FOR IN HIS HUMILIATION AS THE SON, HE DID NOT EVEN HAVE THE BASIC COMFORTS OF LIFE.

\* HE WAS SAYING TO THE SCRIBE, YOU SEE THE GLITTER AND THE FAME NOW, BUT IN MY **HUMBLE STATE AS THE SON OF MAN, I DON'T** EVEN HAVE THE BASIC COMFORTS OF LIFE THAT FOXES AND BIRDS HAVE. THINK ABOUT THAT - MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD.

\*\* SO JESUS PUTS FORTH A CHALLENGE TO THIS SCRIBE WHICH LEADS US TO OUR SECOND POINT TODAY, THE CONCERN BY ANOTHER WOULD BE FOLLOWER OF JESUS. LOOK AT V. 59 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL SEE THE CONCERN.**



## II. THE CONCERN, (READ V. 59)

A. NOW LIKE THE SCRIBE, I BELIEVE THIS MAN ASSUMED THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS WAS ALL IT SHOULD BE, AND HE MADE WHAT **SEEMS TO BE A REASONABLE REQUEST: "LORD PERMIT ME FIRST TO GO AND BURY MY FATHER."**

\* AND SINCE THE JEWS DID NOT PRACTICE EMBALMING, A DEAD BODY HAD TO BE QUICKLY PREPARED AND BURIED.

\*\* BUT NOT ONLY THAT, JEWISH TRADITION REQUIRED THAT A PERSON MOURN FOR HIS DECEASED FATHER OR MOTHER FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS.

\*\*\* AND THE FINAL ACT OF DEVOTION TO PARENTS WAS SEEING THAT THEY WERE PROPERLY BURIED.

\*\*\*\* NOW SINCE JESUS WAS ON HIS WAY TO JERUSALEM, A BURIAL OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL HIS RETURN.

1. SO THIS APPEARS TO BE A LEGITIMATE REQUEST. BUT FURTHER STUDY OF THIS REQUEST APPEARS TO COMMUNICATE THAT THIS WAS A FIGURE OF SPEECH THAT MEANT SOMETHING ELSE.

\* IN FACT **IT APPEARS THAT THIS MAN'S FATHER** WAS NOT DEAD YET. FOR THE PHRASE USED IN V. 59 WAS A COMMON NEAR EASTERN FIGURE OF SPEECH. IT **REFERRED TO A SON'S** RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP HIS FATHER IN THEIR FAMILY BUSINESS UNTIL THE FATHER DIED AND THE INHERITANCE WAS DISTRIBUTED.

\*\* AND OBVIOUSLY SUCH A COMMITMENT COULD INVOLVE A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, 30 OR 40 YEARS OR MORE IF THE FATHER WAS RELATIVELY YOUNG.

\*\*\* IN FACT SOME OF THE COMMENTARIES THAT I READ COMMUNICATED THAT THIS EXPRESSION IS STILL USED IN PARTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY BY GIVING A SPECIAL TRUE ILLUSTRATION.

\*\*\*\* AND THE ILLUSTRATION WAS THAT A MISSIONARY ASKED A RICH YOUNG TURKISH MAN TO GO WITH HIM ON A TRIP TO EUROPE, DURING WHICH TIME THE MISSIONARY HOPED TO DISCIPLE THE MAN.

2. WHEN THE YOUNG MAN REPLIED THAT HE MUST BURY HIS FATHER, THE MISSIONARY OFFERED HIS SYMPATHY AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT HIS FATHER HAD DIED.

\* THE MAN EXPLAINED, HOWEVER THAT HIS FATHER WAS ALIVE AND HEALTHY AND THAT **THE EXPRESSION "BURY MY FATHER" SIMPLY** MEANT STAYING AT HOME AND FULFILLING HIS FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL HIS FATHER DIED AND HE RECEIVED HIS SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE.

**\*\* NOW GET THIS. SINCE A MAN'S INHERITANCE WAS CUSTOMARILY LOST OR REDUCED IF HE DID NOT FULFILL HIS EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE FAMILY, THE PHRASE "I MUST BURY MY FATHER" WAS FREQUENTLY EQUIVALENT TO "I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL I RECEIVE MY INHERITANCE."**

**\*\*\* AND NOTICE THIS MAN SAID "PERMIT ME FIRST" TO DO THIS. AND IF THAT'S THE MEANING HERE JESUS WAS NOT FIRST, BUT INHERITANCE WAS. THIS MAN'S PRIORITIES WERE FOULED UP, HE HAD STRESSED SECULAR MATTERS ABOVE SPIRITUAL ONES.**

**\*\*\*\* AND IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS 2'D SUPERFICIAL DISCIPLE DID NOT WANT TO RISK LOSING HIS INHERITANCE BY COMMITTING HIMSELF TO JESUS.**

3. HE WANTED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH JESUS IN NAME, BUT THE FOCUS OF HIS LIFE WAS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY AND WELL BEING, NOT ON SERVING THE LORD.

**\* AND NOTICE CHRIST'S REPLY TO HIM IN V. 60.**  
LOOK AT V. 60 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 60. NOW THIS SOUNDS PRETTY HARSH ON THE SURFACE, BUT I BELIEVE WE HAVE HERE ANOTHER PROVERBIAL FIGURE OF **SPEECH. THAT MEANT: "LET THE WORLD TAKE CARE OF THE THINGS OF THE WORLD."**

\* THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD CAN TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN THINGS. AND THAT SPIRITUALLY DEAD HERE IS THE MEANING SEEMS LOGICAL FOR DEAD PEOPLE CANNOT BURY DEAD PEOPLE, **THEY'RE DEAD.**

\*\* BUT THE IDEA OF UNSAVED PEOPLE, WHO ARE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS, EPHESIANS 2:1, FITS RIGHT INTO THE FLOW OF THIS PASSAGE. (QUOTE IT)

\*\*\* LET THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD BURY THE PHYSICALLY DEAD, LET THE SECULAR WORLD BE CONSUMED WITH INHERITANCES AND MONEY AND THINGS. LET THE SYSTEM TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.

\*\*\*\* **AND CHRIST'S DIRECTIVE WAS NOT** HEARTLESS, BUT IT CALLED THIS MAN TO EXAMINE HIS PRIMARY LOYALTY.

1. AND CHRIST IS TO BE PREEMINENT IN EVERYTHING. AND WE NEED TO LOVE HIM MORE THAN MONEY. QUOTE MATTHEW 6:24 AND I TIMOTHY 6:6-8 & 10.

\* NOW THE ISSUE IS LET THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD BE CONSUMED WITH THE TEMPORAL FOR THAT IS WHERE THEIR FOCUS IS.

\*\* **BUT THE BELIEVER'S FOCUS HAS TO BE ON** THE KINGDOM OF GOD. FOR **LUKE ADDS "AS FOR YOU, GO AND PROCLAIM EVERYWHERE THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

\*\*\* AND THIS MAN HAD THE WRONG PRIORITIES AND PROBABLY DID NOT BECOME A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, BECAUSE LIKE THE RICH YOUNG RULER HE WANTED GOLD MORE THAN HE WANTED GOD.

\* WHICH LEADS TO OUR THIRD AND LAST POINT TODAY, THE CONTRADICTION. LOOK AT V. 61 PLEASE.

### III. THE CONTRADICTION, (READ V. 61)

A. NOW HERE IN V. 61, ANOTHER MAN ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO FOLLOW JESUS.

\* AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, THIS MAN HEARD WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE DEAD BURYING THE DEAD. SO IT APPEARS THIS MAN WAS WILLING TO LEAVE HIS INHERITANCE BEHIND.

\*\* HE JUST WANTED TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIS FAMILY BEFORE HE STARTED FOLLOWING JESUS.

\*\*\* AND ONCE AGAIN, THIS APPEARED ON THE SURFACE TO BE A REASONABLE REQUEST, BUT REMEMBER JESUS KNEW WHAT WAS IN HIS HEART, PRACTICING HIS OMNISCIENCE AT TIMES. SO JESUS IS ABLE TO SEE WHAT WE CANNOT SEE.

\*\*\*\* AND THE ISSUE APPEARS TO BE THAT THIS **MAN'S WORDS REVEALED THAT HIS FAMILY TIES** WERE TOO STRONG TO BREAK AWAY FROM THEM.

1. BELOVED, IT APPEARS THAT JESUS KNEW THAT IF HE RETURNED HOME, THE EMOTIONS OF THE MOMENT, THE IMPULSE OF THE MOMENT WOULD BE HE COULD NOT SAY GOOD-BYE.

\* JESUS KNEW THAT THE IMPULSE TO FOLLOW HIM WOULD DIE AND HE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE.

\*\* AND LIKE MANY, FEAR OF BEING AWAY FROM OR OSTRACIZED FROM FAMILY BY HIS FAMILY WOULD KEEP HIM FROM FOLLOWING THE LORD.



**\*\*\* AND THAT'S WHY JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW**  
10:37 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE MATTHEW 6:33  
AND REVELATION 2:4 AND COLOSSIANS 1:18.

**\*\*\*\* AND BELOVED THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE**  
SHOULD NOT LOVE OUR FAMILIES FOR WE MUST  
AND SHOULD. BUT ONLY AS WE LOVE CHRIST  
FIRST, THEN WE HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO LOVE  
OUR FAMILIES SUPERNATURALLY THROUGH  
HIM, AND THEN DIRECT THEM TO THE ETERNAL  
THAT LASTS FOREVER, OVER THAT WHICH LASTS  
FOR A TIME AND WILL DISAPPEAR.

**2. AND HERE'S THE CONTRADICTION THAT**  
**SOME PEOPLE DON'T SEE, HE WANTED FIRST TO**  
SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIS FAMILY, WHICH WOULD  
HAVE BEEN FINE, BUT BECAUSE HE LOVED HIS  
FAMILY FIRST, CHRIST WAS NOT FIRST AND HE  
WOULD NOT FOLLOW AFTER CHRIST.

\* SO WHAT DOES JESUS SAY TO HIM? WELL  
LOOK AT V. 62 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 62. **NOW JESUS' RESPONSE TO THIS** MAN CAME FROM A POPULAR PROVERB THAT DATED BACK TO THE 8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B.C. TO A GREEK POET NAMED HESIOD.

\* AND THE PROVERBS SAID: **"NO ONE, AFTER** PUTTING HIS HAND TO THE PLOW AND LOOKING **BACK, IS FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

\*\* AND BELOVED, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

\*\*\* WELL IT MEANS THERE MUST BE COMPLETE DEDICATION TO THE TASK AT HAND SINCE, YOU **CAN'T PLOW** A STRAIGHT FURROW WHILE LOOKING BACKWARDS.

\*\*\*\* TO PLOW A STRAIGHT FURROW YOU MUST LOOK FORWARD. FOR FARMERS IN THAT DAY WHO KEPT LOOKING BACKWARDS ENDED UP ZIGZAGGING ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE AND WOULD WASTE SPACE AND NOT GET A **MAXIMUM YIELD. DON'T LOOK BACK.**

1. J. C. **RYLE SAID AND I QUOTE: "THOSE WHO LOOK BACK WANT TO GO BACK AND IF WE ARE LOOKING BACK TO ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD WE ARE NOT FIT TO BE DISCIPLES."** (END QUOTE)

\* PHILIP GRAHAM RYKEN SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON LUKE ALONG THESE SAME **LINES THESE WORDS: "IF WE KEEP SECOND GUESSING OUR DECISION (COMMITMENT) FOR CHRIST, OR LOOKING BACK FONDLY ON OUR OLD AFFECTIONS, OR EVEN WORSE GOING BACK TO THE PLACES WHERE WE USED TO SIN, THEN WE WILL NEVER GET ANYWHERE WITH JESUS. IF WE WANT TO BE HIS DISCIPLES, WE NEED TO FOLLOW HIM WITHOUT ANY FURTHER DELAY."** (END QUOTE)

\*\* AND BELOVED THE TRUTH IS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW CHRIST WITH A **DIVIDED HEART, AS THIS MAN'S WAS.**

**\*\*\* THEREFORE HE WAS NOT FIT FOR GOD'S KINGDOM BECAUSE HE WAS HOLDING ONTO THE WORLD'S KINGDOM.** HIS FIRST LOVE WAS FAMILY AND NOT CHRIST.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) LET ME SAY THAT THESE VERSES ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT ENTERING CHRISTIAN SERVICE, OR A HIGH DEGREE OF DISCIPLESHIP, BUT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT SALVATION.

\* FOR JESUS TO SAY FOLLOW ME IS FOR HIM TO SAY, DENY YOURSELF AND TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, BECOME A TRUE FOLLOWER, BECOME A TRUE BELIEVER, QUOTE MATTHEW 16:24-26. AND IN THE PARALLEL COMPANION TEXT IN MARK 8:34-36, THERE WERE A MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE THERE, A REMINDER TO WHAT THEY COMMITTED TO 2 ½ YEARS BEFORE.

\*\* AND FOLKS UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT ANY AMOUNT OF SELF-DENIAL OR SACRIFICE THAT EARNS SALVATION, WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.

\*\*\* BUT ANYTHING THAT IS HELD MORE DEARLY THAN CHRIST IS A BARRIER TO CHRIST AND TRULY TRUSTING HIM AND RECEIVING HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR.

\*\*\*\* AND THOSE BARRIERS STAND BETWEEN THE UNSAVED PERSON AND SALVATION. FOR THE SCRIBE IT WAS THE BARRIER OF PERSONAL COMFORT AND FOR THE SECOND MAN IT WAS THE BARRIER OF PERSONAL RICHES, AND FOR THE THIRD MAN IT WAS THE BARRIER OF PERSONAL RELATIONS.

(2) AND WE COME TO CHRIST ON HIS TERMS, NOT OURS, WE COME TO HIM AS LORD AND **SAVIOR, BEING WILLING BY GOD'S GRACE AT THAT POINT TO FOLLOW HIM.**

\* AND BECOMING A TRUE DISCIPLE IS THE ISSUE, JESUS SAID IN JOHN 8:31 (QUOTE IT).

\*\* AND THERE ARE EVIDENCES OF TRULY KNOWING CHRIST, BEING A TRUE DISCIPLE AND DESIRE FOR THE WORD AND PERSEVERANCE ARE A COUPLE OF THEM. AND IT SAYS OF SOME **OF JESUS' PROFESSED DISCIPLES IN JOHN 6:66, "FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM."** (AND THESE WERE NOT TRUE DISCIPLES).

\*\*\* IN JOHN 2:23-25, AFTER JESUS HAD DONE MANY MIRACLES IN JERUSALEM IT SAYS THAT MANY BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, BUT JESUS DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF UNTO THEM, BECAUSE HE KNEW ALL MEN AND NEEDED NOT THAT ANY SHOULD TESTIFY OF MAN, FOR HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN.

\*\*\*\* AND THAT MEANS JESUS HAD NO FAITH IN THEIR FAITH, BECAUSE HE KNEW THEY WERE ONLY THRILL SEEKERS.

(3) IN FACT, JESUS CLASSIFIED SUCH PEOPLE IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AS SEEDS THAT IMMEDIATELY SPRING UP, BUT ARE SOON SCORCHED BY THE SUN BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO ROOT IN MATTHEW 13:5&6.

\* AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO COME AND GO, THEY JUMP ON THE JESUS BANDWAGON, BUT AS SOON AS TROUBLES COME, THEY JUMP OFF, AND DO NOT RETURN BECAUSE THEY NEVER TRULY KNEW JESUS.

\*\* LET US EXAMINE OURSELVES WHETHER WE ARE IN THE FAITH AND LET US MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE NOT DECLARING A CHEAP GRACE GOSPEL TODAY.

\*\*\* I CLOSE WITH THE WORDS OF J. C. RYLE IN APPLICATION TODAY. HE SAID: **"IT** WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IF THESE SAYINGS OF OUR LORD WERE REMEMBERED MORE THAN THEY ARE. IT MAY BE FEARED THAT THE LESSON THEY CONTAIN IS TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY THE MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, AND THAT THOUSANDS ARE ADMITTED TO FULL COMMUNION WHO ARE NEVER WARNED TO COUNT THE COST.

\*\*\*\* NOTHING, IN FACT, HAS DONE MORE HARM TO CHRISTIANITY THAN THE PRACTICE OF **FILLING THE RANKS OF CHRIST'S ARMY WITH** EVERY VOLUNTEER WHO IS WILLING TO MAKE A LITTLE PROFESSION, AND TO TALK FLUENTLY OF **HIS "EXPERIENCE"**.

(4) IT HAS BEEN PAINFULLY FORGOTTEN THAT NUMBERS ALONE DO NOT MAKE STRENGTH, AND THAT THERE MAY BE A GREAT QUANTITY OF MERE OUTWARD RELIGION, WHILE THERE IS VERY LITTLE REAL GRACE.



\* LET US REMEMBER THIS. LET US KEEP BACK NOTHING FROM YOUNG BELIEVERS AND INQUIRERS AFTER CHRIST: LET US NOT ENLIST THEM ON FALSE PRETENSES. LET US TELL THEM PLAINLY THAT THERE IS A CROWN OF GLORY AT THE END, BUT LET US TELL THEM NO LESS PLAINLY THAT THERE IS A DAILY CROSS ON THE **WAY.**" QUOTE MATTHEW 16:24 AND II CORINTHIANS 13:5 AND THEN PRAY.