



ARE YOU FIT FOR THE KINGDOM?

(Luke 9:57-62)

Introduction: Self examination is an imperative of the Christian life (2 Corinthians 13:5). It is perhaps the most difficult critique. We can easily examine others but, our self perception is tainted by feelings, personal experience, our peers, etc. The key is to be a doer and not a hearer only (James 1:25).

I. The Shallow Scribe (vs. 57-58)

- A) A would-be disciple who was impulsive in nature.
- B) Jesus is able to read the hearts of men.
 1. Jesus knew his motives were selfish and worldly.
 2. His outlook and determination was shallow and insufficient.
- C) Impulsive disciples do not last.
- D) Like those where the seed fell on the rock (Luke 8:13).

II. Jesus Calls One (vs. 59-60)

- A) Procrastinator or entangled follower (Matthew 8:21).
- B) "I will follow but, not yet."
- C) Is Jesus being unkind or even heartless?
- D) The picture is of a contrast between burying a dead body vs. ministering to a living soul.

III. Another Disciple (vs. 61-62)

- A) This one has already put his hand to the plow.
- B) As the previous disciple he seeks to interrupt his service to the Master.
 1. His plan simply has to do with the living.
 2. It is not evangelistic in nature.
- C) A universal principle which is easily understood.
- D) The return may be to his demise.

IV. What About You?

- A) _____ affections? (Matthew 6:24)
 1. Career advancement, status, money, etc.
 2. Family (Luke 14:26-33).
 3. The world (2 Timothy 4:10; James 4:8)
- B) _____? (1 Corinthians 15:58)
 1. The "Gibraltar" of our faith is Jesus (Ephesians 2:19-21; 2 Cor. 13:5).
 2. We must not be shaken or swayed (Ephesians 3:14).
- C) _____? (Revelation 21:8)
 1. Afraid to tell others?
 2. Afraid for the church to grow?
- D) _____ / _____? (Hebrews 6:11-12; Romans 12:10-11)

Conclusion: Examine yourself. Are you in the faith? Test yourself? Do you realize that Jesus Christ is in you? That is unless you do not meet the test because you have not surrendered to the Master.

If you have put your hand to the plow keep your head straight, looking at Jesus and if your row gets crooked straighten it out with the Lord's help.

Luke 9:57-62

(57) Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

(58) And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

(59) Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

(60) Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

(61) And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

(62) But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."