

Are You Fit For The Kingdom?

Luke 9:57-62

Luke 9:62, *"No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

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Context: Compare Luke 9:57-62 with Matthew 8:18-22

Putting the Lord First!

- ▶ Matthew records the first two.
 - Matthew tells us that this **certain man** was a scribe.
 - The scribe indicated to Jesus that he would voluntarily and literally **follow** Him *"whithersoever thou goest."* cf. Luke 22:33
 - The scribe would have to understand that this would mean personal sacrifice.
 - Another is commanded, *"follow me."*

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- ▶ Luke includes the third who conditionally **volunteered**, *"I will follow thee,"* but delayed following.
- ▶ Matthew adds that Jesus had seen *"great multitudes about Him"* and that He *"gave a command to depart to the other side"* of the Sea of Galilee.

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- ▶ *"No man ..."* Matthew 6:24
 - Contrast to *"any man."* Acts 10:34-35
 - Galatians 1:9; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17

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- "Having Put His Hand To The Plow ..."*
- ▶ Humbly submits himself in obedience.
 - John 8:24 Faith
 - Luke 13:3 Repentance
 - Matthew 10:32 Confession
 - Acts 2:38 Baptism

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"And Looking Back ..."

- ▶ Genesis 3:1–6, Eve *"when she saw ..."*
- ▶ Luke 17:32, *"Remember Lot's Wife."* (Genesis 19:17, 26)
- ▶ Israel longing for the foods and security of Egypt (Exodus 16:3; Numbers 11:4–6)
- ▶ This man would have to leave others behind. (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- ▶ Paul left things behind. Philippians 3:12ff
 - cf. *"Once saved always saved."* Hebrews 3:12; 4:11; 10:26–29; 10:32ff; Galatians 4:9; 5:1–4,7

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"And Looking Back ..."

- ▶ Must stay focused. (Hebrews 12:1–2; Colossians 3:1–2)
- ▶ Must put the kingdom first. (Matthew 6:33)
 - Some brethren have *"erred from the truth,"* are *"sinners,"* *"dead spiritually,"* and need to be converted (James 5:19–20).
 - Note: Bible study, worship, prayer, etc.

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May Look Back To ...

- ▶ Worldly pleasures. (2 Thessalonians 2:12; Hebrews 11:24–25; 2 Timothy 4:2–4; 3:4)
- ▶ Worldly riches. (1 Timothy 6:9–10; Luke 12:16–21; 1 Timothy 6:19)
- ▶ Worldly cares. (Luke 10:38–42; Luke 8:14; Luke 14:15ff)

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"Is Fit For The Kingdom Of God." ***2 Peter 2:20–22***

- ▶ Christ gave Himself for the church. Ephesians 5:25–27
- ▶ He desires it to remain pure. cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
- ▶ At the judgment the unfaithful will be cast out. Matthew 13:41–42; Matthew 7:13–14

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Conclusion:

- ▶ Those who are committed never offer excuses! Luke 14:15ff
- ▶ Those who are committed never allow others to interfere with his privileges, duties, and responsibilities as a child of God. Matthew 10:34
- ▶ Once he puts his hand to the plow, he never looks back. Philippians 3:13ff

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