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 !

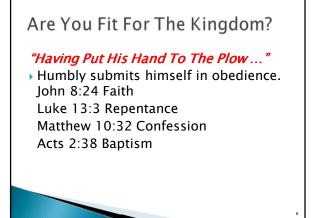
- Matthew records the first two.
 - Matthew tells us that this certain man was a scribe.
 The scribe indicated to Jesus that he would voluntarily and literally follow Him *"whithersoever* thou goest."cf. Luke 22:33
 - The scribe would have to understand that this would mean personal sacrifice.
 - Another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

- <u>Worldly pleasures</u>. (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