

## "If Anyone Desires ..."

Luke 9:18-26

## Proclaiming The Message Of The Kingdom

- ▶ Luke 8:1 – "... bringing the good news ..."
- ▶ Luke 9:1-2, 6 – "... sent them out to proclaim ... preaching the gospel ..."
- ▶ Luke 9:10-11 "... spoke to them of the kingdom of God ..."
- ▶ All this, and more, emphasized to the apostles that Jesus was "the Christ of God"
  - ▶ Luke 9:18-20 – "... who do you say that I am?"

## "If anyone would come after me ..."

- ▶ "Let him deny himself" – offer self to God
  - ▶ Romans 12:1-2 "... present your bodies as a living sacrifice"
- ▶ Self-denial is the basis of humble surrender
  - ▶ Luke 9:46-48 – "For he who is least among you all is the one who is great."
- ▶ We must align our desires with the revealed will of God
  - ▶ I Peter 4:1-4 – "arm yourselves with the same way of thinking"

## "If anyone would come after me ..."

### Examples:

- ▶ Jesus
  - ▶ Matthew 26:39 "not as I will, but as you will"
- ▶ Paul
  - ▶ I Corinthians 9:24-27 "... I discipline my body and keep it under control"
  - ▶ Acts 24:24-25 – "... he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment"

## "If anyone would come after me ..."

### Examples:

- ▶ All Christians
  - ▶ I Thessalonians 5:21-22 – "hold fast what is good"
  - ▶ I John 2:15-17 – "Do not love the world or the things in the world"
  - ▶ I Timothy 2:8-10 – "with good works"
  - ▶ Matthew 5:29-30 – "than that your whole body go into hell"

## "Take up his cross daily ..."

### Not a one time thing but daily

- ▶ Romans 6:1-4 – "Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?"
- ▶ Colossians 3:5-10 – "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you ... you must put them all away"
- ▶ Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ"
- ▶ II Corinthians 5:14-15 – "... those who live might no longer live for themselves ..."
- ▶ I Peter 4:12-19 – "... rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings"

## **"And follow me ..."**

### **Not a conditional "follow me"**

- ▶ Luke 9:57-62 – "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God"
- ▶ John 14:21-24 – "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word"
- ▶ Colossians 3:16-17 – "... whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus"

## **"Whoever would save his life ..."**

### **Living for yourself will not save your life**

- ▶ Proverbs 14:12 – "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

### **Living for worldly possessions will not save your life**

- ▶ Luke 12:13-15 – "... one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions"
- ▶ I Timothy 6:17-19 – "God, who richly provides us with everything"

## **"Whoever would save his life ..."**

### **Living to please others will not save your life**

- ▶ Ephesians 5:11 – "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."
- ▶ Matthew 10:28, 32-33 – "Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell ... but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny"
- ▶ I Timothy 6:12-14 – "... keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach ..."

## **Live to please God**

- ▶ John 8:29 – "I always do the things that are pleasing to him."
- ▶ II Corinthians 5:6-10 – "we make it our aim to please him"
- ▶ Romans 1:16 – "... I am not ashamed of the gospel"
- ▶ I John 2:3-6 – "... we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments"
- ▶ Matthew 7:21-23 – "... the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven"

## **Obedying The Gospel**

### **Hear the Word of God**

- ▶ James 1:21 – "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

### **Believe the Gospel message about Jesus**

- ▶ I John 3:23-24 – "... that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ ..."

### **Repent of your sins**

- ▶ Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

## **Obedying The Gospel**

### **Confess that Jesus is the Son of God**

- ▶ Luke 12:8 – "Every one who shall confess me before men"

### **Be immersed in water**

- ▶ Acts 2:38 – "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ ..."

### **Remain faithful**

- ▶ I Corinthians 15:1-2 – "if you hold fast to the word I preached to you – unless you believed in vain"