

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO CHRIST?

LUKE 14:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. How committed are you to following Jesus?
2. A disciple is one who...
 - a) Lives like Jesus. (Matt. 10.24,25; 1 John 2.6)
 - b) Loves Jesus. (Matt. 10.37)
 - c) Loves like Jesus. (John 13.35)
3. It all boils down to your level of commitment. (Luke 14.25-27)
4. **LUKE 9.23:** *"If anyone desires to come after Me..."*

I. DENY YOURSELF

- A. **LUKE 9.23:** *"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself'"*
 1. Deny (aparnomai): Apo: "away from"; Arneomai: "to reject" Very emphatic. (cf. Matt. 26.74)
 2. Say no to the things that we desire. (James 1.14).
- B. Paul is an example of self-denial.
 1. Paul was on a career path that would have led to greatness. (Phil. 3.4-6)
 2. **PHILIPPIANS 3.7,8:** *"these I have counted loss for Christ"* Paul gave up everything for Christ

II. PICK UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

- A. **LUKE 9.23:** *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him...take up his cross daily"* (cf. Phil. 1.21)
- B. Are you looking to please yourself? Pick up your cross!
 1. Are you looking for popularity? (1 Pet. 4.4).
 2. Are you a parent wanting your child to excel? (Eph. 6.4)
 3. Are you retired looking for rest? (Philemon 9)

III. FOLLOW ME

- A. **LUKE 9.23:** *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*
- B. **LUKE 14.27:** *"...cannot be My disciple."*

CONCLUSION: Who will follow Jesus?

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"
-Mark 16.15

November 20, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

DESIRING THE WORD OF GOD

In Psalm 119, David expressed his passion for the Bible. **PSALM 119.131:** *"I opened my mouth and panted; for I longed for your commandments."*

The word "pant" carries the idea of extreme desire even to the point of desperation. The sense of the word is one who is crawling on the desert sand in the hottest part of the day, parched and with no water in sight. His tongue is hanging out. He is breathing heavy, gasping for air, and is desperately longing for water. It is in this sense that the psalmist wrote, *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"* (Ps. 42.1,2).

In the Book of Amos, God promised that there would come a time when there would be a drought. It would not be a lack of water, but a drought of the word of God (Amos 8.11). Men would search in desperation for the words of God, but not find them. We have easy access to the word of God today. But we ought to desire it as if we are parched and dying of thirst, longing for the Bible to quench our souls. To put it another way, *"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word..."* (1 Pet. 2.2).

CLP

I AM THANKFUL

PSALM 30:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is during this time of year that we are thankful. However, Christians are to be thankful to God all year long.
2. Psalm 30 is a psalm of thanksgiving. [Read Ps. 30]
 - a) **VERSE 1:** *"I will extol You."* Lit., exalt. (Ps. 34.3)
 - b) **VERSE 4:** *"Give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name"*
 - c) **VERSE 12:** *"I will give thanks to You forever."*
3. For what should we be thankful?

I. I AM THANKFUL FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

- A. **PSALM 30.1:** *"and have not let my foes rejoice over me."*
 1. David had enemies from which God provided protection. (1 Sam. 21.12-15; 22.9,18,19; 1 Kings 2.5,6)
 2. David was comforted by God's protection. (Ps. 23.5)
- B. God provides protection from our enemies. (Matt. 5.43,44)
 1. **MATTHEW 5.44:** *"Bless those who curse you."*
Literally, those who ask God to hurt you.
 2. **MATTHEW 5.44:** *"...do good to those who hate you"*
 3. **MATTHEW 5.44:** *"and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."*

II. I AM THANKFUL FOR GOD'S PARDON

- A. **PSALM 30.5:** *"For His anger is but for a moment."*
 1. God's answer only lasts for a moment because He is a God of mercy. (Micah 7.18)
 2. God casts our sins into the sea. (Micah 7.19)
- B. We no longer need to feel guilty for our past.
 1. **2 PETER 3.9:** *"The Lord is...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish."* (cf. v. 15)
 2. Longsuffering (makrothumi): Long to anger.

III. I AM THANKFUL FOR GOD'S PROVISIONS

- A. **PSALM 30.6:** *"Now in my prosperity I said..."*
- B. God has prospered us in a variety of ways.
 1. Material provisions. (Deut. 8.17,18; Matt. 6.33)
 2. Social provisions. (Matt. 19.27,28; 12.48-50)
 3. Spiritual provisions. (Rom. 5.17; Titus 2.11; Eph. 1.7)

CONCLUSION: Are you enjoying God's blessings? Be thankful!

"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT"

Just after His temptation, Jesus began His three year ministry preaching, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matt. 4.17). Shortly after, we find Jesus on a mountain teaching His disciples what is known as the sermon on the mount, the most well-known sermon in the Bible. It is great interest to me that the first thing Jesus did in His sermon is address attitude.

The beatitudes are attitudes of the heart that His disciples are expected to have. It is no wonder because attitude is where it all begins. Solomon wrote that *"as a man thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Prov. 23.7). Jesus taught that *"out of the heart proceed evil thoughts"* (Matt. 15.19). Is it any wonder why Solomon encourages us to *"keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"* (Prov. 4.23).

As Jesus preaches the sermon on the mount, the very first attitude that Jesus sets before us is humility. He says, *"blessed are the poor in spirit"* (Matt. 5.6). The Bible refers to two different kinds of poor. There are the poor who "labor for their bread" [MOUNCE]. These are the ones who are just barely making ends meet. Then there are the poor who are "reduced to beggary; indigent" [MOUNCE]. These are the ones who depend on the kindness of strangers just to survive. Jesus says that those who beg just to survive are blessed.

Jesus then narrows the scope of His description. The blessed are not those who are on the street corners begging. The blessed are those who are *"poor in spirit."* Those who recognize their spiritual destitution and their inability to survive spiritually without God. You and I are blessed when we are humble enough to admit that we cannot make it without God. We need God for our spiritual survival.

Why are they blessed (lit. happy) those who humble themselves before God? Jesus goes on to say, *"for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 5.6). The ministry of Jesus and the sermon on the mount was to prepare people for the gospel and the establishment of the church. Jesus is telling those in His day that if they will humble themselves before God, they will be blessed by being among the saved and part of the Lord's church.

I cannot be saved and be added to the Lord's church unless I first acknowledge that I need God in my life. I must first accept that I have been guilty of sin (Rom. 3.23; 1 John 1.8-10). I must also accept that God through Jesus is the only way that I can be forgiven of my past sins (Acts 4.12). When I am humble enough to know that I am completely dependent on God for my spiritual welfare, then my life will be truly blessed.