

LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND  
LUKE 18:28-30

*Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."*

Introduction:

1. We read of Peter's concern for he and his fellow disciples as to what is in it for them to follow Jesus.
2. Many today seem to be only willing to follow the Lord for the same motive.
3. For those who are willing to give up their lives for Jesus, there is much for you now, and much more in the life to come.
4. To follow Jesus we must be willing to leave the things of the world behind.

I. WE MUST BE WILLING TO LEAVE OUR OWN PERSONAL NEEDS BEHIND. **John 4:3-42**

- A. Allow me to share this story with you.
- B. This woman of Samaria came to a well outside the city to fill her waterpots so that her and her family's thirst would be quenched, but little did she know that the One who could give her living water that would quench the spiritual thirst in her soul would be there.
- C. Spiritually lost and condemned to eternal death in the lake of fire, she found Jesus!
- D. Leaving her water pots behind she went into the city and began to tell others what she had experienced that day, **vv. 28-29** *The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"*
- E. This woman was willing to leave the earthly for the heavenly. **Isaiah 55:1** *Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. **John 7:37-38** On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

II. WE MUST BE WILLING TO LEAVE OUR WILL BEHIND AND FOLLOW GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE. **Matthew 4:18-20** *And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

- A. Have you ever asked Jesus what vocation He wanted for your life? We're not all fishermen, but we are all called to be fishers of men.
- B. What kinds of nets are you carrying on your shoulders? Your net might be anxieties or fears, it could be family or business, it might be finances or a lack thereof, but what has happened is not that you have caught these things in your nets, but that your net has caught you.
- C. When the choice is between the nets of the world and a call to follow Jesus, He must be given preference. **Luke 9:23** *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

III. SOMETIMES WE MUST BE WILLING TO LEAVE OUR GARMENT BEHIND.

**Genesis 39:1-12**

- A. Joseph found himself in a very difficult and dangerous situation that could easily have led him to commit a terrible sin. **vv. 11-12**

- B. He faced a choice that we all face from time to time. Shall we choose to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time, or deny those pleasures for a life of peace and contentment in the Lord?
- C. Doing the right thing can sometimes bring severe consequences as it did Joseph, for he ended up in prison on false charges, but God knows the truth and will eventually bring us to triumph.

cf. **Hebrews 11:24-26** *By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*

#### IV. SOMETIMES WE MUST LEAVE OUR GIFT BEHIND.

**Matthew 5:23-24** *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

- A. Reconciliation to an offended brother is a prerequisite to communion with God.
- B. Some children of God will go on year after year with hard feelings and bitterness toward a brother or sister in Christ, all the time playing “church.
- C. If you are out of fellowship with a fellow church member, you are out of fellowship with God!

**Matthew 18:15** *Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*

- D. Leave your gift at the altar and go be reconciled to your brother or sister.

#### Conclusion:

1. Will you leave it all behind so that you can follow Jesus?
2. Whatever may be holding you back is not worth the missing out of God's peace, His joy, and His love.
3. Leave your waterpot behind and find the living water.
4. Leave your will behind and find God's will.
5. Leave your sin behind and find forgiveness in Jesus.
6. Leave your gift behind and be reconciled.