

The Priority & Authority of Christ

Matt 8:18-22 (Luke 9:57-62), 23-27

Q: Jesus often leaves the multitude to go somewhere else. Sometimes it is to pray. Other times it is to serve. What are we supposed to learn? (Luke 4:43, Acts 8:26, 21:12)

Obedience is best. All are called to tasks, just because they gather a crowd doesn't mean we're meant to stay.

Read Luke 9:57-62. Before Jesus goes, he's asked 3 questions.

Q: If we are to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6), how does Jesus response affect us?

Accepting the reality that the true Christ-like life has no set pattern (Luke 14:28-29). It is a life of surrender and obedience

Q: Jesus asks the man to skip a family funeral for the gospel? Now what is saying? What kind of conflicts would arise here personally, family, socially? How would this be seen by family and friends?

It says again, we leave more than we expect when we truly commit to following Him, comfort, socially accepted norms, the cry of our own heart

Q: Why Jesus 3rd response? Is there a temptation He's trying to get the man to avoid?

Jesus knows that in the heat of the moment that the man would say this, go back to his family and then be tempted to stay.

Q: What is Jesus getting at with all these responses? What are we to learn?

The quick emotional response is not the same as a firm commitment. Many have wanted to follow Jesus in the heat of a moment. Some short form of repentance. Some heightened excitement. These men are all being tested to see what kind of soil they are, shallow or deep. Those who truly are His have deep, fertile soil.

Q: How does the context Matthew surrounds this teaching with help us understand why Jesus asked these questions? What just happened? Why were these men more inclined to say these things?

Jesus had been healing many. He is gaining fame. There is glory attached to what He is doing. People are prone to make emotional decisions. He's testing if they truly counted the cost.

Q: Did these men follow?

It says the disciples got in the boat, not the other men.

Q: Who had made the greater commitment?

Those who actually got in the boat, not those who said they would.

Q: So what about verses 24-27? These are committed men. What are we supposed to say about their reaction in verses 25-26?

Speaking big on the mountaintop is easier than faith tested in the valley.

Q: What kind of faith do they have?

Little, not no faith.

Q: Why such a stiff rebuke given the circumstance? Isn't faith like a mustard seed to be praised?

It's rebuked because Jesus is God

Q: When God is in the boat, how much danger were they in?

If God is with us, who can be against us? Who can overcome the Lord? No one.