

WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

How Is Your Level of Commitment?

Berry Kercheville
(Abridged)

The story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-25) is familiar to most Bible students. The facts seem obvious: a wealthy, religious man refused to give up his possessions to follow Jesus. We shake our heads and reassure ourselves that we would have gladly abandoned everything, slept on the ground with Jesus, and followed Him wherever He led.

I have a hard time treating this account so lightly. Jesus' words were not spoken only for one wealthy man long ago. Before we condemn him, we should remember how much he resembles us.

This man genuinely wanted eternal life. He ran to Jesus, knelt before Him, and had lived a moral, upright life. He had kept the commandments and sincerely wanted to know what he still lacked. How many of us would have questioned his salvation? If we attended his funeral, would we have doubted that he was heaven-bound? He may not be as different from us as we imagine.

Jesus' challenge forces us to examine our own commitment. Perhaps every one of us would surrender our possessions if the Lord required it. But possessions may not be what He asks us to give up.

Commitment has never looked the same for every servant of God. When Saul was converted, the Lord told Ananias, "I will show him how much he must suffer for My name." Years later Paul described beatings, imprisonments, shipwrecks, hunger, danger, and countless hardships (2 Cor. 11:23-28). One flogging would likely discourage most of us, yet Paul endured them repeatedly.

Still, he wrote, "Everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ... I consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ" (Phil. 3:7-8). If you knew beforehand that following Christ meant Paul's life, would you still obey the gospel?

Or suppose your commitment required the life of Job. Your children die. Your possessions disappear. Your health is destroyed. Your friends become accusers. Even your wife urges you to give up. The only thing left is life itself, and even that feels like a burden. Would you still choose to follow God?

Perhaps your path would resemble Abraham's. Leave your homeland forever. Live in tents as a stranger. Then one day God commands you to offer your only son. Abraham did not know what we know about the outcome. He fully intended to obey. Could we?

What if your calling was Jeremiah's? You preach faithfully for decades, yet no one repents. You are hated, beaten, imprisoned, and left to suffer. God even commands you to remain unmarried. Would you still say yes?

Or consider Ezekiel. You are carried into captivity, separated from your homeland, and sent to preach to people who refuse to listen. God silences your speech for years, and then your wife dies. Yet you are commanded not to mourn publicly because your own life has become part of God's message. Would you accept that calling?

Imagine hearing the gospel while living in the unlawful marriage of Herod and Herodias (Mark 6:14-20). Becoming a Christian would require ending that relationship. Yet compared to the sacrifices of Paul, Job, Abraham, Jeremiah, or Ezekiel, it is not the greatest cost anyone has ever been asked to pay.

So here is the question. If, before becoming a Christian, the Lord laid these lives before you and asked you to choose, which would you take? The rich ruler? Paul? Job? Abraham? Jeremiah? Ezekiel? Herod?

The rich young ruler's problem was never simply wealth. His problem was that there was one thing he would not surrender. That is the real question for every disciple. What if the Lord asked you for the one thing you cherish most? Would you still follow Him?

How is your commitment? Mine still has room to grow.

Announcements:

Prayer List

- Long-term health issues:
 - Rob Canon
 - Mandy White
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Working to regain his strength after his health issues.
- Sandra's Aunt: Experiencing severe gastrointestinal and kidney issues. She was also recently diagnosed with cancer. Sandra is a friend of Belle and Devan and has recently been worshipping with us.

Traveling/Away

- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit. Due to return toward the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

- Business Meeting: August 9th after evening class.

Morning Worship Assignments

Opening Prayer- James Wright
Scripture Reading- David Johnson Jr.
Sermon- Joe Wright
Closing Prayer- Ken White
Song Leader- Addison Wright

Evening Worship Assignments

Song Leader- Earl Shumaker
Closing Prayer- Julian Munoz

Key Scripture:

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’” -Matthew 16:24-25



ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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