

Preparation for February 3, 2013

“Half-Hearted Interest or Total Commitment?”

Monday – Tuesday

1. Total Sacrifice – Read Luke 9:20-23

- Why do you think Jesus told His disciples not to tell anyone?
- Does this still apply to us today? Why or why not?
- What should we share with others about Jesus? (Hint: see vs 22)
- What do you imagine was going through the disciple’s minds when Jesus began explaining all the things that were going to happen to Him? Do you think it lined up with Peter’s declaration that Jesus was God’s Messiah? Why or why not?
- Assuming the disciples were confused by verse 22, how do you think they responded to verse 23?
- When we hear about someone having a cross to bear, what do we think?
- When the disciples heard Jesus say they must take up their cross, what do you think they thought?
- Who do you say that Jesus is? Why?
- Has proclaiming this truth ever cost you anything professionally, socially, financially, or physically?
- If it had, would you still stand by it?

Wednesday - Thursday

2. Total Gain – Read Luke 9:24-26

- From the world's perspective, who is number one?
- How do you see that philosophy portrayed in media today?
- How does that make you feel? What is your reaction?
- How does the pursuit of the American Dream illustrate that the protection and advancement of self is priority number one?
- How do the words of Jesus contradict the world's perspective?
- What does verse 25 mean to you?
- What do you find most difficult about losing your life for Christ?
- Agree or Disagree: No matter how wealthy a person may be in this life, he will be bankrupt eternally if he dies without Christ.

Friday - Saturday

3. Total Commitment – Read Luke 9:57-62

- Does it seem like Jesus was being discouraging to the first man? Why would Jesus be that way?
- What about the second man? Does Jesus seem unnecessarily harsh here?
- Look at verse 62. Describe what happens when a farmer does keep his focus forward when he is plowing? (He won't plow in a straight line.) Why is it important not to look back when you make a commitment to follow Christ?
- Is there a difference between saying you want to follow Jesus and actually choosing to follow Jesus? What is the difference?
- Why did these men find it so hard to make a total commitment to Jesus?
- Why do adults today find it so difficult to make a total commitment to Jesus?
- Each of the men in these verses had an excuse that kept them from following Jesus. What are some common excuses today for not fully following Jesus?

Additional Reading for this week:

1. Animal Imagery in the New Testament
2. The Son of Man
3. First Century Jewish Concepts of the Messiah