
I. Introduction
   a. Pig and Chicken: Commitment or Involvement
      i. A pig and a chicken are walking down a road. The Chicken looks at the pig and says “Hey, why don’t we open a restaurant?”
      ii. The pig looks back at the chicken and says “Good idea, what do you want to call it?”
      iii. The chicken thinks about it and says “Why don’t we call it ‘Ham and Eggs’?”
      iv. “I don’t think so” says the pig, “I’d be committed but you’d only be involved”
   b. Definition: An agreement or pledge to do something in the future

II. Main idea: Jesus was fully committed to our eternal salvation, and He calls his disciples to total commitment

III. Jesus commitment – v. 51
   a. The goal: to be received up
      i. To be received up – ascended to have his atonement accepted at the throne of God for the sins of all mankind
   b. The cost: intense suffering, shame and death
      i. Before he could be received up He had
         1. To be given up – betrayed
         2. To be lifted up – crucified
         3. To be raised up – resurrected
      ii. Luke 9:22
   c. The present action: He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem

IV. Our commitment
   a. We are called to have a commitment like Christ’s
      i. Luke 9:23
      ii. Heb. 12:1-4
   b. But we are susceptible to flaws in our commitment
      i. Over-commitment
         1. Example: the disciples
         2. v. 53-56
         3. Destroy any resistance!
         4. Our commitment must be firm but our words and deeds gentle rather than violent

V. Under-commitment
   a. Example: would-be disciples v. 57-62
   b. He had Good intentions:
      i. Receives a warning
      ii. It won’t be easy
   c. Other things first
      i. The funeral
1. How could Jesus not accept this reason?
   a. Jesus did attend funerals
      i. Jairus’ daughter
      ii. The son of the widow at Nain
      iii. Lazarus
      iv. Usually he spoiled them!
   b. He had nothing against them
2. The ultimate reason
   a. Because of the universal acceptability of this reason, it is sometimes used as an excuse
      i. 20% of British workers admit to falsely claiming to need to attend a funeral in order to get time off from work
      ii. REVIEW LAST WEEK’S LESSON
      iii. An excuse is a reason that we offer instead of the real reason, because the real reason is less acceptable than the excuse
      iv. We use excuses to shield ourselves and the one we are refusing from the pain or embarrassment that the revelation of our real reasons would cause
      v. In the case of Jesus, that was impossible, because He knows our hearts
   b. Jesus’ response
      i. Let the dead bury their own dead
      ii. Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead
      iii. He knew that if this man did not come now, he never would
      iv. So He called him to leave his dead father and grieving relatives behind
      v. Isn’t that hard?!
      vi. Isn’t that asking too much?!
ii. The farewell
   1. Why not?
      a. Elisha – 1 Kings 19:19-21
      b. If you have decided to follow Jesus, don’t look back
      c. Many have lingered to say goodbye to
         i. friends
         ii. family
         iii. their old church
         iv. and have never left
   2. Jesus’ response
      a. Plowing metaphor – don’t look back
      b. What if I have looked back? Am I unfit for the kingdom?
i. No one is worthy of a place in the kingdom

ii. As long as we are looking back, we cannot plow

iii. As long as we have the spirit of looking back, we are unfit

iv. But when we slaughter the oxen and burn the plow of our former attachments

v. Then we are ready to work for the Lord

vi. We are equipped with everything we need to be productive
   1. But there is one thing God cannot give us
   2. Commitment

c. Isn’t that hard?!

d. Isn’t that asking too much?!

VI. Conclusions

a. Jesus is always calling us to a higher level of commitment
   i. What would that look like for you?
      1. A change in the number of worship services you attend?
      2. A change in what you do in your spare time?
      3. A change in where you live?
      4. If you know what the next level of commitment is, don’t hesitate, follow Jesus
      5. If you do not know what it would take to strengthen your commitment, spend some time thinking about it

ii. Some have no commitment at all to Christ
   1. They are just checking Him out
   2. Familiarity with Christ is not sufficient
   3. Involvement with Christ is not sufficient

b. Raising our level of commitment
   i. Contemplate the Goal
      1. Glory with Christ
      2. Eternal life
   ii. Count the cost
      1. Daily cross-bearing
      2. Faithfulness until death
   iii. Consider the Savior – Heb. 12:1-4
      1. He thought the goal was worthwhile
         a. Does He know more or less about it than me?
      2. He thought the cost was worth paying
         a. Was He wrong?
   iv. COMMIT TO HIM

c. The alternative
   i. Rejection of the Savior
   ii. We can’t say, “Nothing personal”
iii. With Jesus, everything is personal
iv. He know our hearts
v. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare Him the pain of rejection
   1. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare Him the pain of rejection
   2. no reason we may give for shrinking back from commitment will spare us the judgment that awaits those who heard the call but did not respond by following Him

d. Invitation
   i. To you, Jesus says, follow me
   ii. What will your answer be?
      1. I will follow you wherever you go!
      2. OR Let me first do what is more important than following Jesus