

Unfit for the Kingdom of God

Luke 9:57-62

Introduction:

- A. Most of us have some concerns about fitness.
 - 1. Physical and mental fitness.
 - 2. Athletic and military fitness.
 - 3. Academic and employment fitness.
 - 4. Marital and parental fitness.
- B. But, are we as concerned with our fitness for the kingdom of God. (v. 62)
 - 1. Not everyone interested in the kingdom is fit.
 - 2. Not everyone thinking himself in the kingdom is fit.
- C. Our text describes three *characters* unfit for the kingdom of God.

Discussion:

I. The Eager Beaver (v. 57)

- A. We are not told why he was so eager to follow Jesus.
 - 1. Maybe the many miracles.
 - 2. Maybe the popularity of the moment (v. 37)
 - 3. Maybe, as a scribe, a political view of the Messiah.
- B. Jesus dampened his enthusiasm with a “reality check.”
 - 1. Discipleship brings hardship (2 Tim. 2:3-7; 3:12)
 - 2. Jesus wanted this understood up front (cf. Lk. 14:25-33)
- C. There is more to discipleship than just “getting baptized.” (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - 1. Notice the sentence structure of verses 19, 20.
 - 2. Cannot have crown without cross or salvation with sacrifice.

II. The Me Firster (vv. 59-61).

- A. There was nothing wrong per se with what either man wanted to do.
 - 1. It was their “me first” attitude.
 - 2. Could not do both at the same time – had to make a choice.
- B. How many of us are “me first” in our approach to discipleship.
 - 1. When it comes to obeying the gospel.
 - 2. When it comes to church attendance.
 - 3. When it comes to daily service.
 - 4. Some of my things may have to left off or done later.

III. The Back Looker (v. 62).

- A. Jesus requires undivided attention and loyalty in his kingdom
- B. We cannot do the Lord’s work while looking back.
 - 1. “Remember Lot’s wife” (Lk. 17:13)
 - 2. We must be totally committed and focused on work ahead.
- C. There are many things to distract us.
 - 1. Looking to what we left behind – a family or a life style.
 - 2. Losing sight of our real goal – heaven (cf. 2 Cor. 4:18)
- D. Both churches and individuals have to watch this.

Conclusion:

- A. How fit are you for the kingdom of God?
- B. How focused are you on doing the God’s will and going to heaven?
- C. Are you like the Dutchman greasing the boss’ wagon?