

Choosing God First

Luke 9:57-62

Introduction

Why should you make a choice that honors God, especially when another choice will seemingly give you more of what you want? Choosing God first is the key to enjoying the benefit and full relationship with the King and His kingdom. Many people want to follow Christ but want to do so second to their own personal pursuits. Yet they do not fully realize that putting their own comfort, security, or relationships before Christ jeopardizes the blessing and benefit available to them.

The first person in today's passage wanted to follow Jesus. He had been watching Jesus and wanted all of the blessings of being associated with Christ. Jesus told that man that the choice to walk with the Son of God came at a price. The man would have to follow Jesus and be willing to forego personal comfort. If you want to choose God first, you also must be willing to experience inconvenience or discomfort. The second person wanted to follow Jesus but first wanted to secure his future and get his inheritance. He was concerned about making sure he could depend on a security blanket. Jesus says that God's kingdom purposes and priorities will not wait on the person who wants to ensure personal security. If you want to choose God first, your dependence should be on Him – not your own ability to "cover all of your bases".

The last person to express a desire to follow Jesus wanted to first say goodbye to his family. When you decide to put God first, you must not let any other relationship take precedence. If you attempt to prioritize God and His kingdom, yet remain distracted by people, you will emotionally hold yourself back from a full and wholehearted commitment.

Why should you prioritize God over comfort, security, and relationships? When you prioritize God over everything, you will know God in a new and different way and experience His all encompassing peace, provision, and presence in your life. When we choose God first, His best never disappoints.

Getting Started

1. We all have things we love to enjoy or spend money on; some may call them guilty pleasures. While these pleasures may not be inherently bad, they are often the very things we prioritize over God. What do you consider to be a "guilty pleasure"? What do you enjoy doing, love experiencing, or even spending money on? What brings you joy, makes you smile, or gets you talkin'?
2. One man who wanted to follow Christ was more concerned about feeling secure. What makes you feel secure? What gives you the confidence to not worry?

Let's Get Personal

1. What comforts or modern conveniences do you think you would be hard-pressed to live without? Why? Would you be willing to give it up if God asked you to?
2. Is your personal security something you worry about? This could be saving for retirement, solidifying a family legacy or working hard to secure a promotion at work? What actions have you taken to secure your future? Have those actions eclipsed your desire or ability to follow God's leading?
3. Think about where you spend your time and your money. What do your actions demonstrate about who or what you love most? If your choices related to your comfort, security, or your relationships are a test to measure your commitment to God, are you passing or failing the test?

Take the Next Step

1. Based on your answer to the previous question, what has been the repercussion of your choices? As a result of today's discussion, what change will you make going forward?
2. Want to read more about choosing God first? Look at Deuteronomy 30:11-20 and Joshua 24:15.

Renew Your Mind

Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God's kingdom." Luke 9:62