

**“I’m In! But...”**

**Matthew 8 v18-22**

**Scripture Ref: Matt 6:31-33; Rev 22:12**

- 1. Joke: Thanksgiving Divorce**
- 2. Last week we concluded by looking at a real-life scenario of people – millions of people –**
  - a. Who received a vision that was cast by a presidential candidate, and said unequivocally “I’m in! All the way! Whatever it takes!”**
  - b. And we looked at the contrast that if people are willing to give of themselves to a vision for a political figure,**
  - c. How much more should we as Christians be willing to go “all in” for the Kingdom of God!**
- 3. Well today we are going to look at a few people that saw Jesus, they heard what He said, and they said “I’m in! ...but”**
  - a. In other words, they were ready to follow Jesus, but only under certain conditions.**
- 4. Brings us to the question: “Why do you following Jesus?”**
  - a. Some people will follow Jesus because they are having financial problems – and they think “Jesus will help me!”**
  - b. Some people will follow Jesus because they want a secure life – “I’ll follow Jesus, and He’ll take care of all my needs.”**
  - c. So... why do you follow Jesus?**

And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. 19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." 20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

- 5. Interesting response to this man’s statement – in one sense you might look at the disciples statement, and how Jesus responded, and wonder “what was Jesus talking about?”**
  - a. But of course – we know that Jesus always had the correct response, and in this case He was speaking directly to this man’s heart.**
  - b. In other words Jesus could see right into this man’s heart, and he knew that he would not be prepared to really follow Him wherever He went.**
  - c. Maybe He thought “If I follow Jesus, I’ll be set up really nice in life. This Jesus seems to have a really big following, so there should be some really nice perks for those who are in His inner circle!”**
  - d. So Jesus responds...**

*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

6. **Do you find it strange that the Son of God had no home? That he would wander around and stay with whoever gave Him shelter?**
  - a. **Wouldn't it have been more fitting for Him to have a really big house, with servants, maybe a big chapel that He could preach in?**
  - b. **I think this showed us where His priorities were – His priorities were not a soft and comfortable life on this earth, but to go about the Fathers business.**
7. **Imagine if you came into work tomorrow and brought your TV with you. Maybe some groceries, your favorite chair.**
  - a. **You put your exercise machine there in the cubicle, set up a little refrigerator, a small stove.**
  - b. **And your boss asks – “why have you brought all this stuff?” and you say “hey, I like it here – I have a little 4-6 space, nice and cozy, this is my new home!”**
  - c. **Your boss would think you lost your mind, especially because you have a home that is much nicer and more accommodating than your little 4x6 cube.**
8. **Jesus is trying to get the point across that we should get too comfortable here on this earth, because that's not where it's at!**
  - a. **And I believe that Jesus has zeroed in like a laser to this man's soft spot.**
  - b. **He wanted to follow Christ – but Jesus knew that he would not have been too happy with the lifestyle.**
  - c. **He wanted to follow Christ – but only for what he could get out of it.**
  - d. **As long as there were big crowds and plenty of food, he would be there! But what about then the crowds left, and Jesus was going to be crucified... what then?**
9. **I remember times in my life when I had money, and funny thing – I had lots of friend.**
  - a. **People would hang around with me and be my friend and we just had a great time partying together.**
  - b. **But when the money was gone and I was broke, where were my party-friends? GONE!**
10. **That is how some people view Christ – if they can get something out of the deal, then “I'm in!”**

- a. **But, what if being a Christian costs you something? What if some of your business partners decide not to include you in some of their deals?**
  - b. **What if your boss can't stand Christians, and he would never promote a Christian?**
  - c. **What if one day our country comes to a place where being a Christian means you don't get to take part in some part of commerce? Like as in you cannot buy or sell unless you take the Mark of the Beast?**
  - d. **Will you still follow Christ?**
- 11. You might be thinking "Clay, you are making the Christian life sound like a big downer!"**
- a. **No, I am just asking you, like Jesus asked this guy, will you follow Jesus regardless of what the cost is? Regardless of what you might lose?**
  - b. **Don't get me wrong, I believe that God will take care of the Christian, He promises us in His word (we just taught it) that**

***Matt 6:31-33***

*31 Therefore do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

- c. **God will look after you – but we need to be sure that our reason for following Jesus is not based on "WIFM" (whats in it for me!)**

**Is there a Caveat?**

21 Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

- 12. This man also has desire, but with a caveat – "I'll follow you Lord, but first..."**
- a. **In other words, "I'm in, just not right now! I have a few things to take care of first."**
  - b. **Now to clarify, this man was not saying that his dad was lying dead on the couch at home, and he needed a day to go and dig a grave!**
  - c. **He was saying "let me first take care of my dad, then when he dies, and I get some inheritance to live on, then I'll come and follow you"**

**13. I cannot tell you how many people I have heard make that same statement.**

- a. They'll say "I am going to make this money, or do this deal, or win the lottery, and then I'll be financially free to serve the Lord in full time ministry!"
  - b. Or "I need to get my life in order, take care of a few things, and then I'll follow Christ".
- 14....I sure am glad that none of the apostles thought that way! Because guess what, **IT NEVER HAPPENS!**
- a. I have yet to see one person make that big wad of dough, and then go serve the Lord.
  - b. I have yet to see one person go and "take care of a few things," then come back and follow the Lord.
  - c. No, what happens is that they'll make some money, but then feel like they need to make a little more, and a little more, and after a while the dream is gone, the call is dead.
  - d. Or a person will go to "get their life in order," but there never seems to be that perfect time when all the stars line up and everything falls into place so that they can effortlessly float into serving the Lord.
15. Like having kids – if you wait for the "right time", you'll never have kids, because there is no "right time" to have kids.
- a. It's always a bad time, because kids will always cost you money, wreck your social life, and impact your hobbies! They will always be inconvenient!
  - b. They will cost you something – but they are worth the price!
  - c. It's the same way with serving the Lord, if you wait for the perfect time, for the stars to line up, you will **NEVER** serve the Lord.
  - d. Serving the Lord will cost you something – but it is worth the price!
16. I believe what this really is, is a smokescreen. What the person is really saying is "*I want to seem like I'm in, I want everyone to think I'm in, but my heart really isn't in.*"
- a. I can't tell you how many times, in the seven years I have been a pastor, that I have had people come up to me and tell me they want to get engaged, they want to get involved, they want to really step out for the Lord.
  - b. And they'll walk away, and I'll never hear from them again on that subject.
  - c. Now, I'm not cynical. I always believe the best. In my heart I think "that's great, I pray that you do". (Because it is a blessing to serve the Lord!)
  - d. But the reality is – its often the ones that feel the need to **TELL** you that they want to break out for the Lord, that somehow never really get any traction.

***They say there are three kinds of people: (1) Those who make things happen; (2) Those who talk about making things happen, then do nothing (3) and those who sit around and wonder “what just happened?!”***

- e. I don't want to appear as though I'm making fun of anyone, but Let's keep it real
  - f. You might be sitting here today, and you have made a commitment about serving the Lord, and you had the best of intentions, but you just never followed-through.
17. I think that there is an honest intention, an honest desire to step out, but something breaks down between the intention and the action.
- a. Perhaps you are afraid of failing, so you never step out.
  - b. Perhaps there is some part of your life that is not lined up with the Lord, and so you feel disqualified.
  - c. Or it could be that there is some spiritual laziness... hey I don't mean to be unkind, or even say that from a place of superiority, because I have those times in my own life as well!
  - d. But it's true. We all can get spiritually lazy, we know we should move ahead, but we just can't get motivated.
  - e. We think of all the reasons why we cant do something
18. Whatever the reason, you can find yourself in a place of spiritual limbo...
- a. You WANT to step out, but you never do, and so you keep making excuses, and after a while you start believing your own excuses.
  - b. And we become like the guy who told Jesus... “Lord, I'll follow you, just as soon as \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)”
  - c. \*\*\*What's the alternative?
19. Here is what you do: You take all those excuses, all those reasons, you write them down on a piece of paper, and you take that piece of paper.... And THROW IT AWAY.
- a. And you just follow Jesus.
  - b. Why? Because He is Jesus Christ! Because He is the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End!
- And when you hear “It wont be easy! It'll be hard!”
    - You say “I know, but it is worth the effort.”
  - When you hear “Everyone else is over here having fun!”
    - You say “I know, but I am more interested in purpose than I am in having fun.”
  - When you hear “It's going to cost you something.”

- You say “I know, but it is worth the cost.”
- When you hear “you could be doing other things!”
  - You say “there is nothing I would rather be doing than serving my God!”
- When you hear “you have other responsibilities.”
  - You say “there is nothing more important than serving the Living God.”

**Rev 22:12** *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

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