

Extreme Allegiance – Luke 9:23-27; 57-62

Read Luke 9:23-27; 57-62 (illustrate this call to EA)

Clear up v27 – most likely refers to the transfiguration that followed 8 days later (28-36)

It was a glimpse of what the K of G will be like
There to instill hope in the midst of such extremes

About as clear as it gets – Jesus calls us to a life of EA

Christianity is not about enhancing your own life – it's about exalting his
Not about advancing your own interests – it's about furthering his
Not about making your marriage better, making feel better, or solving your problems

Those things are a *result* of a life in Christ; But not what it's about
Christianity is about a life of EA to the one who loves you and saved you

Commitment service

Give opp to solidify your allegiance to Christ
Or nail it down for the first time

By making 3 resolutions/promises/commitments
Starts with self-denial

23a – Jesus is looking for those who would *deny* themselves

Put his interests ahead of theirs

EA starts with a . . .

I resolve to put God's interests ahead of my own (v23, 57-62)

Self-denial begins when I step off the throne, and put Jesus on it

When we renounce *self*-centeredness and embrace *Christ*-centeredness

A crucified/risen Savior is not well served by self-pleasing, self-indulgent followers

Christ calls me to put his interests ahead of –

My own *desires* (23)

Like those involved in CO's – helping those who need a boost
It's not like they don't have anything else to do
They just put God's desires ahead of their own

My own *comfort*

58 – doesn't mean Jesus never slept in a bed
It means that following Christ includes discomfort
Discomfort we need to embrace, instead of avoiding like the plague

If your Christianity has not brought discomfort to your life at times, something is wrong

Like the discomfort of loving difficult people; Giving until it hurts
Going above and beyond for ministry; Being out of step with culture
Standing alone in a crowd; Of not having everything you want in life

Discipleship that follows genuine conversion is not a road marked by perpetual ease

Joy yes, but joy in the midst of discomfort at times

Christ calls me to put his interests ahead of –

My own *responsibilities* (read 59-60)

Let the spiritually dead bury the physical dead; You do the greater thing – spreading the good news
Burial of the dead, especially your father, was considered a religious duty that took precedence over all others, including study of the Law

Rabbinic teaching – death of a relative frees you fr all the commandments of the Law
Point – even the most important responsibilities come behind his call on your life

My own *family* (read 61-62)

Any farmer knows – can't look back and plow a straight furrow; it doesn't work
Just like doesn't work to make half-hearted commitment to Christ & expect great things
You're ineffective at best, and lost at worst – not fit for the kingdom
Uses our God-given allegiance to our families (1 Tim 5:8) to illustrate that allegiance to him comes first

Jesus is looking for an allegiance that puts his interests ahead of your own

Goes to extremes to make the point that his agenda supersedes ours

Are you ready to make or affirm that commitment in your life? **Check the box**

Read 23-25 – Charlemagne

His ironic way of saying – can't take it with you?

Or theirs to say – though he said he was a believer, he lived like a pagan; for what good
Obsession with building/keeping wealth is hazardous to your health

I resolve to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ (v23-25)

To expend my whole life (time, talent, and treasure) to build church, further the kingdom

That's what it means to *take up your cross daily*; To *lose* your life for Christ's sake (24)

Doing whatever God wants you to do, each/every day – all out; holding nothing back

Your cross might be – enduring difficult people, physical hardships, hard situations

Standing up for what's right, even when it's not popular

Speaking the truth even when it's not easy – every day, all day

Resolving to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ is doing every single thing you can, every single day, to further the K of G

Alternative is spending your time, talent, treasure for your *own* purposes, *own* betterment

You can do that, but the result is catastrophic – lose what you hoped to gain (v24a)

Actually forfeit your soul for eternity, instead of preserving it

Keepers are losers, givers are winners

If you give your life to him and his purposes . . .

He will give you life to the full, and life everlasting

Givers are winners

If you try to keep your life by advancing your own purposes – you'll lose it

You'll miss out on God's best now, and suffer God's worst later

Keepers are losers

Jim Elliot – “He is no fool to give what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

Some of you are chasing after the American dream, trying to gain the whole world, and in the process losing your own soul to the hell of eternity

There's no profit in that (read v25)

Those who want to pursue a casual relationship with Christ will not discover his full blessing, and may even miss out on heaven

Jesus is looking for committed Christians, not casual Christians

Like **William W. Borden** (photo)

Age of 21 was a millionaire – but chose *Christ* over his fortune
At 16 while traveling around the world – saw desperate need to spread the gospel
Short time later, while getting his education at Yale and Princeton Seminary
Began spending for the cause of Christ
Eventually gave \$1m (equiv to 20m today) to found/support Christian org’s
Personally decided to reach Muslims in China
After completing education, accepted by China Inland Mission, left for Egypt at the age of
25 to study Arabic
1 year later, in Cairo – contracted cerebrospinal meningitis and died at 26
Terrible waste of a life? I think not; Neither did he
On his deathbed, he scribbled on a piece of paper – “no reserve, no retreat, no regrets”
He was a rich young ruler who resolved to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ
Personally and financially
That’s what Christ calls you and I to
Are you ready to make that kind of commitment? **Check the box**

I resolve to put God’s interests ahead of my own
I resolve to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ
I resolve to follow Christ unashamedly, for all to see (v26)
When you’re ashamed of someone, what do you do?
Distance yourself from them
Disassociate yourself from them
Like when your spouse acts out at a party . . .

Ask yourself – am I ashamed of Jesus?
Do you distance yourself from him on occasion?
Quietly disassociate yourself because of what others might think?
Guilty of distancing yourself from the truth of his Word because it’s not popular?
If so, stop it and repent
Because the consequences of being ashamed of Jesus is that he will be ashamed of you

History is full of examples of men and women who were unashamed of the gospel
Unashamed of their allegiance to Christ; Unashamed of his words and teachings
People like Alice Driver & Alexander Gough (England, 1557) who were burned at stake
People like Pastor Kim, (Korea, 1950’s) who with 27 others – run over by a steam roller
People like Li De Xian (China, 1995) who was tortured for his EA
List goes on and on

Unfortunately, the list of those ashamed of him is even longer
While they’ll never be remembered here on earth – God *will* remember in heaven
And be ashamed of them as well

Which list are you on?
Ashamed or unashamed? Those who follow out of convenience, or allegiance?
How do you want to be remembered by Christ?
Read – confession of one person who wanted to be remembered for unashamedly
following Christ for all to see

You may never be burned, hanged, shot, tortured, thrown in jail for your faith
But you *will* have plenty of opp’s to hold firm to Christ, or shrink back in shame
To stand for what’s right, or give in to the crowd
The quiet moments count just as much as the dramatic ones

Repent of the past and resolve now to follow Christ unashamedly, for all to see
Check the box and sign on the dotted line