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Our Commitment to Christ

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WHEN
HAVE YOU
REGRETTED
SAYING
“YES”?

The
POINT >

Commit your whole life in trust and
obedience to Christ.

> MARK 10:13-22

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

¹⁶ After taking them in his arms, he laid his hands on them and blessed them.

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: **Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.**”

²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.”

²¹ Looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” ²² But he was dismayed by this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

If you've ever watched reality TV, you know there's a whole lot of drama. Producers often get the participants to act this way by keeping them from getting enough sleep—that's why they're often so grumpy.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

Reality TV has been a staple in American entertainment for twenty years, and considering there are millions of people who continually tune in, it's not likely to go away anytime soon. One popular reality TV show has contestants working through challenging, complex obstacle courses to earn the title of American Ninja Warrior. To be in the kind of physical shape necessary to complete the course requires months, even years, of intense training. This is no small commitment.

We may not be competing for a title, but our lives revolve around our commitments just the same. A quick look at a typical week will reveal how committed we are to the things in our lives. Family, friends, schoolwork, athletics, a job, or practicing a hobby all call for a certain level of commitment. And there are challenges we must overcome associated with anything we'd pursue.

Our commitments reveal what we value—and who we love. In the Bible, we see God's commitment to us, and we find time and time again that, because of His great love for His people, God proved His commitment. We need to ask ourselves, how do we respond to that commitment?

MARK 10:13-16

1 When have you seen someone come to Christ with a childlike faith?

2 What was Jesus telling us about the kingdom of God when He said it belongs to people like the little children?

MARK 10:17-20

3 How would you answer the man's question?

4 Why was this man's obedience not good enough?

5 Why are so many people tempted to believe that being a good person will get us into heaven?



MARK 10:21-22

6 Why did Jesus require something of this man that He didn't demand of others?

7 List a few things that keep people today from totally committing to Jesus.

8 How would you describe a life fully committed to Jesus?



We aren't saved by a life of obedience, but by God's grace. #allinBSFL



LIVE IT OUT



GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

Our response to God's love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit.

Honoring God is about far more than just our actions—we are called to honor Him with every part of ourselves. We are to continually set our thoughts upon God and the things He calls good. We are to make intentional choices that please Him. We are to use our words to praise God, to express thanksgiving, and to build others up. And of course, the ways we act should always be in line with God's will. When we trust Him and live by the Spirit, He will empower us to live for Him.

› CHRIST

We aren't saved by obedience. Rather, we are made right with God by the sacrifice of Christ. Our obedience, then, is an expression of the change God has made in our hearts.

9 How does your life show an all-in commitment to Christ?

10 What will you leave behind this week in living out your commitment to Christ? (In your answer, consider what Jesus described to the rich young ruler.)

> COMMUNITY

We are called not only to be committed to Jesus, but to the church as well.

11 How do you show that you're committed to the church?



12 How is God calling you to be more deeply committed? Begin this week!

> CULTURE

The disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus—in fact, they thought they were doing the right thing. But Jesus was not happy about this and corrected them.

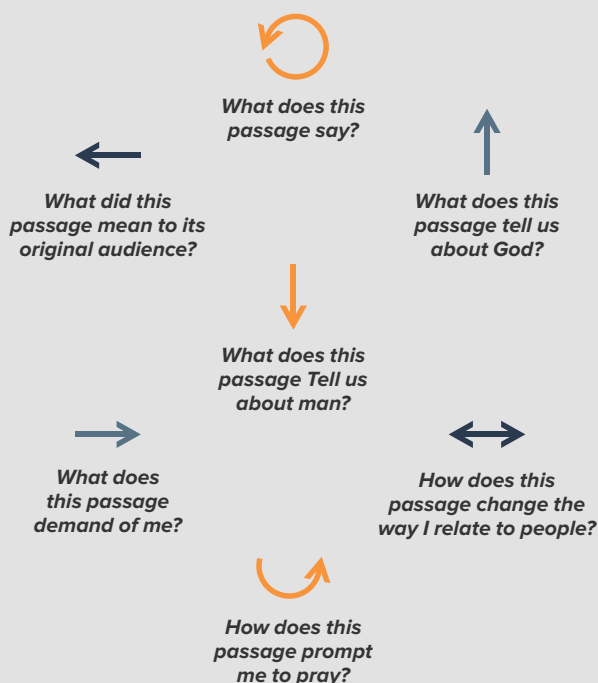
13 Are there any ways you may be keeping people from coming to the church and to God?

14 How will you work to welcome non-Christians into the church this week?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One LUKE 9:23

When Jesus called His disciples, He told them to leave what they were doing—whether they were fishing, collecting taxes, or otherwise—and follow Him. Becoming a disciple of Christ involved their setting aside all the plans they’d previously made in order to learn from Him and to be a part of His ministry. This doesn’t mean the disciples were forced to do things they didn’t want to do and give up all the things they’d dreamed of. Instead, it meant learning to desire the things that are in line with Jesus and His purposes. The disciples followed because they wanted to, for they knew that to be with Christ was better than anything they would experience outside of Christ. Denying ourselves means denying our fleshly desires that are opposed to God’s will for our lives. However, when we surrender to Christ, He gives us a new heart with desires that are in line with His kingdom purposes. This is one of the clearest ways to know we’re truly followers of Christ—when we find that desires not in line with God’s ways decrease, and in their place, right desires grow up in our hearts.

➤ **What does it mean to deny ourselves?**

➤ **What has God asked you to give up to follow Him?**

Day Two

LUKE 9:24



From an earthly perspective, certain things make sense. If something is valuable to us, then we need to protect it. If we want to keep something, we must store it in a safe place. And the most valuable thing we have is our lives. But the kingdom of God often works in an upside-down, paradoxical manner, and here is one of those instances. If we want to truly live, then we have to give our life away. Specifically what Jesus is saying is, if we try to hold on to this physical, temporary life, we'll experience eternal death. But if we give this life over to death, identifying with Jesus in His crucifixion, we'll receive an eternal life that is worth infinitely more.

➤ **In what ways does God's kingdom function in an upside-down manner?**

➤ **Why does Jesus call us to give our lives away?**

Day Three

LUKE 9:25

The majority of people live for the here and now with little thought of the future. We eat our favorite foods and watch our favorite movies, we laugh with our friends and engage in our favorite pastimes. And all these things are good so long as we don't look to them for ultimate satisfaction. However, far too many people fail to see beyond these kinds of things. Sure, some people think about the future—working hard to make good grades to get into the best college or saving up to buy a car. But even these are desperately short-sighted. When we live for this life, whether it's today or twenty years from now, we miss the point of what Jesus has said. To live for this life—the present moment or further into the future—but to disregard eternity will leave us eternally empty. If we want to be truly rich, we must give up living for the present moment, and even saving for the future, at least as our source of ultimate happiness. Instead, we must live with God's eternal kingdom in view.

➤ **Where do you seek happiness and satisfaction?**

➤ **Why are people willing to give up eternity in living for this life?**

Day Four

LUKE 9:26

Shame is the painful emotion we experience when something we'd rather keep hidden is exposed. When Adam and Eve sinned, whereas before, because they were pure they had nothing to hide, now they understood that they were dirty and broken, so they hid—they felt ashamed. Jesus has called us to share the truth of the gospel with as many people as will listen. In fact, this is the mission we've been called to as His followers. Yet we live in a world where it's important to always be polite and there are certain topics that are off-limits, including religion, and if we were to share our faith, our friends may look down on us. This may be the case, but it doesn't change God's calling on our life, and we have this hard saying from Jesus. If we don't speak up for Him in this life, we can be sure that He won't speak up for us when we stand before God in judgment.

➤ **When have you felt shame?**

➤ **How do you live “unashamed” for Jesus?**

Day Five

LUKE 9:27



In the gospel of Mark, we read that some with Jesus wouldn't die until they saw the kingdom “come in power” (9:1). The kingdom of God exists when Jesus reigns. In the ultimate sense, God is sovereign, and He reigns everywhere. However, in the current age, He hasn't chosen to exercise His control in the fullest sense, and tragically, many people refuse to honor Him. However, one day all this will change, and everyone will bow before Jesus. When Christ began His ministry, He preached that the kingdom had come (Mark 1:15). Through His death and resurrection and with the coming of the Holy Spirit, God was working to fulfill the establishing of His kingdom, and when we submit to Christ—when He reigns in our lives—the kingdom has come powerfully to us.

➤ **How does Jesus rule in your life?**

➤ **What areas will you commit to surrendering to Him?**