

BIBLE STUDY LESSON

“LEARNING TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF HALF-HEARTEDNESS”

SCRIPTURE TEXT: “2nd CHRONICLES 25: 2” – “2nd KINGS 14: 3” AND “ST. LUKE 9: 57-62”

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INTRODUCTION:

We all will leave a legacy of sorts – either a positive one or a negative one. Our lives eventually will come to an end, and each of us will leave a legacy. The truth will come out – the good things we did, the bad things we did, what we really stood for.

We may live long, productive lives and, like Caleb of the Old Testament, be able to look back after 85 years and say that we finished well.

Caleb, Joshua and the Israelites had come into the Promised Land after 40 years of wilderness wandering. Caleb had been promised a portion of the land, and he asked for what he had been assured of earlier. He said to Joshua:

“Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea. ⁷ Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. ⁸ Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the Lord my God. ⁹ And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.” (Joshua 14:6–9)

Notice an important phrase: **“You wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.”** It simply means that Caleb wasn't a halfhearted person.

I think we have a lot of halfhearted people filling the pews of churches today. They want to give the bare minimum to the One who gave everything for them. If you try to live as a Christian but live as you please, you will find conflict. **Some people have too much of the Lord to be happy in this world, and too much of this world to be happy in the Lord.** They're living in a miserable no-man's-land.

If you want to finish well and wholeheartedly follow God, then you won't compromise but instead stand your ground. You will be more concerned with the approval of God than the approval of people.

Think of how many people today are held back spiritually because they are so concerned with the opinions of others.

(Cont. 2)

Don't lead a half-hearted life. Make sure that every day counts. You don't want to waste a single moment.

First of all, let's get a working definition of what we are investigating.

Halfhearted: Exhibiting or feeling little interest, enthusiasm, or heart; uninspired.

Christian: Following the teachings or manifesting the qualities or spirit of Jesus Christ.

So, given those definitions, you can put it together and say that "A Halfhearted Christian is one who feels little interest, enthusiasm, or heart for following the teachings or manifesting the qualities or spirit of Jesus Christ". That's pretty simple and to the point, right? Well do you see the problem with this though? [A Halfhearted Christian Life](#) as though they know about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They know Him on Sunday and when it is convenient for them, but become filled with amnesia when their walk is complicated by following Him. They may claim to love Jesus and can even quote scripture, but live in a manor where even the unbeliever takes notice.

Because you do not whole-hearted give your time and attention to Christ, the halfhearted Christian leaves themselves open to backsliding and confusion. [James 1:8](#) say, "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Guess what, if you do not serve God with all your heart then who do you serve? If your mind is not totally focused on Him, then the devil sees that as a prime opportunity to give you his card and say "Call me". This can introduce both recognized and unrecognized confusion into your life.

[1st Corinthians 14:33](#) says, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." So, if God isn't your source of confusion, then you know that it is not of God. If you took the devil's card when you hit that low point (or high point) you opened yourself to choosing between two masters.

[Romans 6:16](#) - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" [Romans 6:16](#) is saying that whatever you allow to become your master, you will become a slave to it. If you are a slave of sin then it is to the death, but if it is to obedience of God then you will have righteousness and everlasting life.

If you are confused, be confused no more! If you serve the Lord with all your heart, then He will show you what is right and wrong. There is no in-between on this matter. Either you are for God or against...you're either hot or cold... you're either black or white on the matter...you get the point.

I wish to say that if you feel halfhearted about your walk with Christ pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the error of your ways.

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If you know someone who is living a halfhearted walk, then speak to that person. There are only two ways – with God and not with God. At the end of the day, you must choose.

I may have shared this before but one prayer that I always pray is that the Holy Spirit be with me in all things that I do: the good things and the mistakes, so that in my errors I am shown the right way. If you can't choose, call on the Holy Spirit and He will help to direct your path.

In closing I want to leave you all with Romans 8:38-39 and it says:

"(38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I. HALF-HEARTED COMMITMENT

The parallel account (2 Kings 14:3) gives us a clue to his character: **"And he did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not like David his father; he did according to all that Joash his father had done."** You remember his father Joash, the good boy who went bad.

The central aspect of Joash's faith was that it wasn't his own. He rode on the coat tails of Jehoiada, but as soon as Jehoiada died, Joash went astray. He himself never walked in reality with God.

His son Amaziah learned to follow in his dad's steps. He did some good things and he did some bad things. But his life was not fully committed to the Lord. He never confronted the sin in his life. He never got serious about God.

Let's get a thumbnail sketch of Amaziah, a half-hearted, blah believer. I see here seven strands of half-heartedness we need to avoid:

1. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS A LITTLE BIT OF OBEDIENCE

He executed his father's murderers, but at least he obeyed the Mosaic law, rather than the common custom of kings in that day, by not killing their sons (25:3, 4). In 25:10, we find him obeying the prophet, but only after questioning him. But later, when he decides to dabble in idolatry, he tells the prophet to shut up (25:16). He may have been angry because even though he obeyed the first prophet, he still suffered loss (25:13). After his victory over Edom, he was not following the Lord, but worldly convention, when he cruelly shoved his prisoners of war off a cliff (25:12). So Amaziah's life was marked by a little bit of obedience, but not complete obedience. Like Rehoboam, he suffered from the peril of partial obedience.

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“Well,” you say, “a little bit of obedience is better than none, isn’t it?” That’s debatable. If a man claims to be a Christian, a little bit of obedience can be a dangerous thing. Like the Pharisees, it’s just enough to congratulate yourself that you’re okay, but it’s not the radical repentance that leads to eternal life (Matt. 5:29-30). It’s just enough to let others identify you as a Christian, but not enough to commend the faith to them. And so, outsiders say, “If that guy is a Christian and lives like *that*, I don’t want anything to do with Christianity!”

2. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS BEING AMBITIOUS FOR YOURSELF, BUT NOT FOR THE LORD

Amaziah got right to work consolidating his kingdom and assembling an army. They marched off to battle against their enemies. But in all of this there is no mention of seeking the Lord and His glory. It was all for Amaziah.

A popular TV preacher encourages people to pursue their dream. That’s fine if one condition (which I’ve never heard him mention) is met: If you got your dream from God. If your dream is in line with God’s purpose and glory, then go for it! But if you’re just out to pursue *your* dream, then you’re just into American success. You’re living for self, not for God, even if He gets a tip of the hat. God’s glory and His purpose must be the aim of all our ambition.

3. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS FOLLOWING HUMAN WISDOM, NOT GOD’S WISDOM

Human wisdom often makes good sense and it works, but it leaves God out. A young king asks, “How do I build my kingdom?” Human wisdom answers, “Take a census, gather an army, hire mercenaries, take counsel for war, inflict punishment on your enemies, etc.” The methods worked in his battle with Edom. But there was one major problem: Amaziah never sought the Lord’s mind on any of these matters.

A lot of pastors in our day try to build the church like that. You learn the latest techniques, study your target audience, set goals, advertise, recruit workers, and manage everything properly. A lot of these church growth methods work well. But if faith in God and obedience to His Word isn’t at the heart of what we’re doing, then we’re operating on human wisdom, and it’s all wood, hay and stubble at best. If the Lord isn’t in it, then even if it works, we’re just building a monument to ourselves.

4. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS CONCERN FOR EXPEDIENCE OVER OBEDIENCE

(Note 25:6-9.) Amaziah’s first concern was not, “Is it right or wrong?” “Is this what God wants?” Rather, his concern was, “What about the money I’ll lose if I obey?” A hundred talents of silver was a pile--about 9,400 pounds! It is not wrong to consider the consequences, but it is wrong to consider the consequences first. The first matter to consider is the principle.

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In this case, Amaziah was unequally yoked with the idolatrous northern kingdom. The Lord was not with them, so how could he be with them? That was the principle. Only when Amaziah had considered that was he ready to ask, **“What’s it going to cost?”**

That’s how we ought to follow Jesus Christ. First, consider who He is, who He claimed to be. Is He in fact the promised Messiah and Savior?

Does His life fulfill the Old Testament prophecies? Do His miracles authenticate His claims? Does His teaching come from God? Is He in fact raised from the dead? If so, then I must follow Him because He is the Truth.

Now, what’s it going to cost me? Everything I’ve got! So be it. The question then is, Do I believe that the Lord can give me much more than I give up, if not in material goods, then in peace, joy, and righteousness? Of course, the “much more” is not always material. Quite often it costs you dearly to follow Christ above expedience. But if you put the Lord first, He always makes the gain outweigh the losses.

On one occasion Peter wondered about this. He said, **“We have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?”** Jesus replied, **“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life” (Matt. 19:27, 29).** In Mark’s Gospel, the Lord is recorded as adding that not only will we receive in this age houses and family and farms, but also persecutions! And, in the age to come, eternal life **(Mark 10:30)**. But it’s a good trade to give up everything you have for that pearl of great price!

5. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS BEING SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE EVILS YOU CAMPAIGN AGAINST

Amaziah, who knows about the living God, defeats these pagan idolaters in battle. But then he brings back their idols and bows down to them **(25:14)**! Incredible! Well, not really, when you keep in mind that Amaziah had a divided heart. Satan knows that half-hearted believers are only half against sin, and so he smiles and bides his time.

Every so often you hear of some preacher who campaigns against pornography who gets caught in an adult bookstore or with a prostitute. It’s always sad, because the world mocks God on account of it. A man who isn’t dealing with his own sin on the thought level had better not get into the ministry, because it’s warfare against a subtle and powerful enemy. If Satan can’t defeat you in open battle, he will lure you into his camp in other ways. He feels around the rim of your life for the cracks, and if he knows that you don’t follow the Lord with a whole heart, he smiles as you campaign against immorality. It makes your fall look so much more spectacular!

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6. HALF-HEARTEDNESS MEANS REJECTING THE COUNSEL OF GOD IN FAVOR OF THE COUNSEL OF MEN

This is stronger than the following of human wisdom rather than God's wisdom that we saw (under point 3). That was more just going along with the way the world does things; this is deliberately saying no to God's Word and choosing to go your own way. Notice the play on words (25:16, 17): -"counselor," "counsel" (v. 16), "counsel" (v. 17). Amaziah didn't want to hear the counsel of God, because it meant dealing with his sin. A half-hearted, blah-believer doesn't want to do that--it's too threatening. So instead he found counselors who told him what he wanted to hear, namely, to go to war against Joash, king of Israel. But this was his eventual undoing.

[Proverbs 21:30](#) states, "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord." When a man rejects the counsel of God in favor of the counsel of men, God uses that wrong human counsel to accomplish His sovereign judgments.

There's a principle here you should never forget: [You can't win if you go against the Lord](#). That ought to be perfectly obvious, but people won't accept it. Maybe some like a challenge, I don't know. But you can't win against the Lord. I often see this in counseling with people. God's Word clearly confronts their sin, but they don't want to face that, because it means they would have to repent and change. So, they make excuses for their behavior and go find other counselors who tell them what they wanted to hear in the first place, thinking that this counsel will get them where they want to go. But it never brings them lasting happiness, because you can't win if you go against the Lord!

7. HALF-HEARTED COMMITMENT MEANS FALLING PREY TO PRIDE

Amaziah starts thinking that he's pretty hot stuff. "[Did you see how I dealt with the Edomites?](#)" So, he challenges Joash, king of Israel, to a showdown. Joash answers with an allegory that means, "[You're just a little thorn bush compared with me as a mighty cedar tree. You're going to get trampled.](#)" That eggs Amaziah on. So, he goes to battle and gets creamed. Apparently, he was so badly crippled that the king of Israel figured that it wouldn't hurt him to let him stay on the throne. So, he tore down 600 feet of the wall facing to the north and left Amaziah there. He never recovered his power.

Pride goes before a fall. A person who is not wholeheartedly for the Lord is not judging his sin. The only way to avoid pride is to deal with the sin which so easily besets us. Half-hearted commitment results in inevitable ruin. We've seen the half-heartedness.

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The Resulting Ruin

Some of Amaziah's ruin was immediate, but some took a while. God's judgments don't always follow swiftly by our reckoning. But they do follow inevitably. It may take a while for the seeds sown to the flesh to spring up and produce corruption, but the crop never fails.

1. IMMEDIATE RESULTS: GOD'S PEOPLE WERE DEFEATED AND DEFENSELESS

(See 25:23-24.) A city with a 600-foot hole in its wall was defenseless. Jerusalem and the southern kingdom could not be strong under these conditions. Some of the people were taken as hostages. The few items of gold and silver left in the Temple and king's house (which Joash had not lost to the Syrians, or which Amaziah may have restored) were taken. The worship life of God's people was at a low ebb, thanks to Amaziah. Half-hearted commitment always weakens the entire church, especially when the half-heartedness is in the leadership.

2. LONG-RANGE RESULTS: WASTED YEARS AND A POINTLESS DEATH FOR AMAZIAH

(See 25:25, 27, 28.) His power was gone. His riches were gone. His army was defeated. The last 15 years--more than half of his 29 as king--were futile and wasted.

When Amaziah turned from following the Lord, it gave rise to discontent which eventually led to a conspiracy. The very thing he tried to prevent by executing his father's murderers came upon him. He fled to the stronghold city of Lachish on the Philistine border. But it could not protect him if the Lord was not protecting him. He was murdered, carried home, and buried. Ho-hum. The epitaph of a blah believer, whose heart was not wholly for the Lord.

II. THE DANGER OF HALF-HEARTEDNESS – (2nd Kings 13: 14-19)

HALFHEARTEDNESS can be described as: indecision or doublemindedness - a lack of enthusiasm sometimes because of the lack of a clear goal. HALF-HEARTEDNESS causes the heart, the head and the hands to hang down. HALF-HEARTEDNESS, although common, understandable and explainable—whether a result of fatigue, disappointment or disillusionment—is still above all **DANGEROUS!**

Note with me several reasons why Half-Heartedness is so dangerous to our soul.

1. WE CANNOT PLEASE GOD WHEN WE ARE HALFHEARTED

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

A. When we are Half-Hearted, we are filled with doubt.

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1. We will doubt that God hears us when we pray.

2. We will doubt that situations will get any better.

B. When we are Half-Hearted we are never totally committed.

[Vance Havner](#) said, 'A "Half-Way Christian" works both sides of the street. He is religious because it helps him in business and gives him a self-righteous satisfaction. But he has no intention of making Jesus Lord of his life. Yet our Lord said He would rather a man be cold, utterly without profession to be Christian, rather than medium, lukewarm, "moderate."'

2. WHEN WE ARE HALF-HEARTED, WE ONLY WIN PARTIAL VICTORIES

A. [JOASH](#) did only about half of what he should have. "If a man is centered upon himself, the smallest risk is too great for him, because both success and failure can destroy him.

If he is centered upon God, then no risk is too great, because success is already guaranteed--the successful union of creator and creature, beside which everything else is meaningless."

B. He prevailed only about half as many times as he could have. "Fear doesn't want you to make the journey to the mountain. If he can rattle you enough, fear will persuade you to take your eyes off the peaks and settle for a dull existence in the flatlands." (Max Lucado)

Perhaps [Joash](#) had the attitude that many have, "Some victories are better than none." But I say, "Not when God promised you all the victories!" The flatlands may be OK to some, but they're not for me when God promised us a mountain.

3. WHEN WE ARE HALFHEARTED OUR BLESSING IS LIMITED

[James 1:6-7](#) "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

A. Being halfhearted will never bring us the spiritual victory that we need.

Notice that the people in the Bible to whom we look to for a spiritual example are people who were wholehearted in their service to God. They received because they believed wholeheartedly.

- [Abraham](#) - went out to a strange country wholehearted
- [Joshua and Caleb](#) - went forth into the promised land wholehearted • [David](#) praised and repented wholehearted
- [Esther](#) risked her life wholeheartedly

(Cont. 9)

- **Job** trusted in the face of despair wholeheartedly
- **Paul** - fought the good fight of faith wholehearted We can have limited blessings or unlimited blessings—it depends on us. Unlimited blessing come to those who follow the plan of God wholehearted

B. Being Half-Hearted will never bring us the spiritual happiness we need.

William Law writes, “To love God wholeheartedly, we must be convinced that our only happiness is in him alone. We cannot believe this until we renounce all other efforts at happiness. If we look to God to supply half our happiness, we can only love him with half our hearts.”

III. HALF-WAY FOLLOWERS

There are somethings in life that we should never do half-way. Most things in life we should give our best effort, persevere, and see to completion.

Giving half-effort while swimming means that you drown and die.

Giving half-effort when running away from a wild bear results in you being eaten.

Giving half-effort when walking I believe is called “tripping” and you can get hurt and never get where you are going.

Doing a test in school only half-way means you get 50% or lower which is an F, failing grade.

Wearing only half your clothes means the other half of you is naked which no one wants to see.

Wearing half of your shoes makes for an awkward day with you hobbling along.

Only working half the number of hours, you should mean you will get fired.

Washing only half your body means you stink.

There are of course more serious things that we should never do half-way, but that list will get us thinking. There are some things in life that we should never do half-way because the normal thought is that “**you finish what you start.**” The normal thought is that when doing something, we should give “our best effort” all the time.

(Cont. 10)

ILLUSTRATION:

“Three people were laying bricks. A passerby asked them what they were doing.

The first one replied, "Don't you see I am making a living?"

The second one said, "Don't you see I am lying bricks?"

The third one said, "I am building a beautiful monument."

Here were three people doing the same thing who had totally different perspective on what they were doing. They had three very different attitudes about their work. And would their attitude affect their performance? The answer is clearly yes.

Excellence comes when the performer takes pride in doing his best.

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it, regardless of what the job is, whether washing cars, sweeping the floor or painting a house.

Most people forget how fast you did a job, but they remember how well it was done. Pride of performance does not represent ego. It represents pleasure with humility.

The quality of the work and the quality of the worker are inseparable. Half-Hearted effort does not produce half results; it produces no results!

The word “discipleship” simply means “following Christ.” “Discipleship” means (a more complicated definition) the process by which someone grows in faith and practice in Christ and is equipped by the Holy Spirit to live life faithfully to Him. The passage that we are going to dig into this morning is [St. Luke 9:57-62](#) where we will see that Jesus is calling us to full lifetime effort with Him when it comes to following Him as a disciple. Jesus specifically targets, in this passage, the excuses we might use to give half-effort when being His disciple.

READ [St. Luke 9:57-62](#)

“As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

In this passage, just like the passage we looked at last week ([St. Luke 14:25-35](#)), people are following Jesus from town to town and they want to be His disciple. They see Him heal the sick and drive out demons and they want to be close to this miracle working man.

(Cont. 11)

They hear His parables which confound them and push them towards God and they want to be near this wise teacher who teaches and preaches about God. In our passage, Jesus encounters three different people who want to half-way follow Him.

A. THREE EXCUSES IN THE SCRIPTURE

First, we have a guy (verse 57) come to Jesus and he claims to want to follow Jesus **“wherever He goes.”** Those are the actual words the fellow uses. Being a Christian is following Jesus in all things and wherever Jesus leads. Jesus replies to this first man that following Him is not always easy. Specifically, Jesus points out that Jesus’ travels are non-stop and they don’t call anywhere home. There are no breaks. Jesus and His disciples spend day and night traveling and teaching and ministering to growing crowds of people.

I think Jesus divinely looks into the heart of this man and knows that constantly following him is not something he can do or is actually willing to do. The man wants comforts. At this time, Jesus doesn’t have that.

So, the first excuse given not to follow Jesus in this Scripture is that following Jesus was tough, not what the person expected, and so he opted out.

Second, we have another man (verse 59) who comes and Jesus gives him the same command He gave His disciples. When Jesus gave the command **“follow me” (Matthew 4:18, Mark 1:17)** to some fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John dropped their nets and followed Jesus full-time.

When Jesus gave the command **“follow me”** to Matthew the tax collector **(Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, Luke 5:27)**, Matthew left his life of tax collecting and followed Jesus full-time. When Jesus told the rich young ruler **“follow me” (Matthew 19:21, Mark 10:21, Luke 18:22)**, he did not because he did not want to give up his wealth and had other priorities. Jesus told Philip **“follow me” (John 1:43)** and not only did he follow Jesus full-time, but he went and found his friend Nathanael who also followed Jesus.

Jesus said to the man **“follow me”** just like He said to all these other people. Notice there is nothing added to that. Being a Christian means that we follow Jesus. We follow Jesus... period. There are no phrases after and no **“ifs,” “ands,” or “buts.”** This particular man has an excuse of why he cannot follow Jesus. He says that he has to bury his father. That is definitely not a bad thing!

The English wording in this verse is a little misleading. The situation that the man presents is that his father is ill and is about to die. He asks for time to go home, wait for his father to die, and then he will bury him. Once his father has died, then he will follow Jesus.

(Cont. 12)

All of that sounds good, except, to be honest, it puts family before God. A Christian is someone who puts the will of God and faith in Jesus Christ first.

First means first.

First does not mean after important people we love.

First does not mean after a job and all its demands.

First does not mean after sports or hobbies.

First does not mean after our wants and desires.

First does not mean after politics or social beliefs we might hold.

First does not mean after we spend our money on what we want.

First means first.

So, the second excuse given not to follow Jesus in this Scripture is that following Jesus meant that He would be the priority over all other relationships. This was not what the person wanted, and so he opted out.

Third, a man (verse 61) comes to Jesus and pledges that He will follow Jesus. This is such a great thing. The desire is there! The faith is there!

The willingness and obedience is there! Yet, the man has an excuse that he needs to go and say goodbye to his family. Like the man with an ill father, this also does not seem like a bad thing. The man is stating that he is willing to follow Jesus, but wants to go home and talk it over with family first. Why is that an issue? It is an issue because following Jesus is a whole life transformation.

Following Jesus changes everything. Once at home, this man would be tempted to stay there with them and not leave. They might convince him not to go. Jesus encourages the man that he is to follow and not look back. Backwards is often temptation. Faith in Jesus Christ is keeping Jesus as the priority and not allowing any other tempting path to get us off track.

So, the third excuse given not to follow Jesus in this Scripture is that following Jesus meant a total life change in all things and this was not what the person wanted, and so he opted out.

In this passage, three people declare their willingness in one form or another to follow Jesus with their whole hearts. They declare they believe in Jesus with their mouths. Jesus shows us, by His interactions with these folks, that following Jesus as a believer is much more than just words, but also rests in our actions in keeping Jesus as first priority and following Him in all things. These folks had excuses as to why they could not follow Jesus. They had obstacles in the way that they were willing to keep.

(Cont. 13)

CONCLUSION:

“An estimated 500,000 tons of water rush over Niagara Falls every minute. On March 29, 1948, the falls suddenly stopped. People living within the sound of the falls were awakened by the overwhelming silence.

They believed it was a sign that the world was coming to an end. It was thirty hours before the rush of water resumed. What happened? Heavy winds had set the ice fields of Lake Erie in motion.

Tons of ice jammed the Niagara River entrance near Buffalo and stopped the flow of the river until the ice shifted again. The flow of God's grace in our lives can be blocked by cold indifference.”

The reasons why our Half-Heartedness is so dangerous is obvious. Think of the miracles that could have been seen, the souls that could have been won, the influence that we could have had on others. Half-Heartedness is a tragedy in the making.

In fact, when we get to heaven, I believe that we will see that one of the greatest tragedies of our existence here on earth will be the things that we could have done and should have done for God. Don't wait until later or until a better time. Get in the arena and fight! Amen.