

Session 4- His Path- My Path

I. Question from the last session: What is my life?

- A. Answer: Your life is your time and resources and all that you hope to get by using them.
1. By nature, our opinion is that we find life here on this earth.
 2. **Jesus teaches that life is knowing God and seeking His kingdom.**
 3. My life is my plan for finding fulfilment (happiness) while I am alive on this planet.
- B. For all people in all cultures there are common opinions of how happiness can be found.
- Jesus boldly confronts those opinions.

II. Key areas Jesus confronts.

- A. **Career-** Addressed indirectly.
1. Peter and Andrew, James and John.
 2. Matthew- Dramatic because it is irreversible.
 3. Jesus does not call everyone away from their career. But for everyone, He must be given priority.

“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions”
(Luke 14:33).

B. Money and things.

1. Luke 14:33 (passage at the side).

a. **No one of you**- Addresses everyone in the crowd.

b. **Can be my disciple**- Can learn from Me.

(1) I won't take you on.

(2) Because you cannot be taught.

(3) Illustration - Learning to swim.

c. **Who does not give up** - Forsake- Say goodbye to- Walk away from.

d. All- Means all.

e. His own possessions- Things and money at your disposal.

2. Jesus never bowed to money.

a. Luke 21:1-4: A penny is more than the great gifts.

b. Luke 16:19-31: Lazarus, not the rich man, knew God.

c. Luke 18:18-25: Go sell all you have - Give it away- Come follow.

d. John 12:1-8: Mary's perfume was worth an entire year's wages.

3. Application:

a. Cannot mean “get rid of” everything - **Jesus did not.**

b. Positive side- I must be free from bondage to money if I hope to understand the heart of the Lord.

c. Money and things are dangerous.

(1) Luke 12:13-34: Beware of every form of greed.

(2) Matthew 6: You cannot serve God and things.

(3) Love of money is the root of all evil.

C. **Public opinion** - Luke 9:26.

1. Jesus' teachings will put you at odds with the culture in which you find yourself.

2. When we embrace the Lord, we begin to act differently than those around. We cannot continue secretly forever.

3. When we are challenged by the culture around us- Public opinion- We must continue faithful to the Lord.

D. **Family.**

1. Area in which the Lord's teaching is most cutting.

a. **Family is the greatest source of human pleasure.**

b. Because of that, family has the greatest potential to lead us away from Christ.

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26-27).

2. Issue- Jesus must have no rivals in the soul.

a Matt. 10:32-39: Jesus warns that the disciples words and ministry will lead to family divisions.

b. Luke 14:26-27: Love for the Lord will make attitudes toward loved ones seem like no love at all.

(1) Normally we care for our own supremely.

(2) Situations will occur which make it appear that there is actually hatred.

3. Key considerations in making application.

a. Jesus teaching does not violate responsibility to family.

(1) Corban - Matt 15:1-9.

(2) Note also the high demands placed on believers by the apostles -

Ex. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church.

b. We achieve what the Lord requires by exalting Him rather than cutting family from our hearts.

III. Conclusion

A. Following does not imply a perfect life- It simply puts us in a place to learn.

B. Following does require a change in attitude in key areas of my life which will lead to real changes in my conduct.