

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

For what it's worth

Matthew 8:18-22

8:18, *And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.*

- *From Capernaum across the Sea of Galilee*
- *Put some distance between us and the crowd*
- **Why?**
- *Many today measure success by crowds*

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First & foremost – because the Father told Him to (Jn. 5:19)

- *They had gathered to Him desiring His ministry*
- *He consistently wanted newness for people, not sameness*
- *The twelve continually saw newness as they moved about with Him*

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Christ's ministry is not always determined by people's needs

- *TV adv. – "We can illuminate poverty in our time."*
- **Matthew 26:11**, *"The poor you will always have with you" (Deut. 15:11)*
- *There are always more needs than we can meet*
- *The Son of Man did not meet them all*

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His ministry is not determined by our desire to minister

- *He prayed, "Not My will, but Yours be done"*
- *So must we, if we will join Him in His ministry*
- *Cho in Sweden*

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Jesus was always moving toward God's revealed will

- *So must we, if we follow Him*
- *It doesn't mean we can't serve needs we see*
- *But doesn't presume our desires are His will*

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It will involve walking away from things He led us into

- *He may have you leaving it for someone else*
- **Acts 3:1-7**

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8:19, *Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."*

- *A scribe – a teacher of the law*
- *Do you think he meant it?*
- *I think he did, within his own definitions*
- *Do we consider that following Christ will be on His terms?*

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8:20, *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."*

- *Jesus is saying, **Are you willing to follow Me into this?***
- **How much** must we forsake to follow Him?
- **Everything we would withhold**

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Luke 5:11 & 27-28, *So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.*

After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And

He said to him, "Follow Me." So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

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Luke 14:28-30 & 33, For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?

So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

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Philippians 3:7-8, But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

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Mark 10:28-30, Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."

So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life."

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He has proven that true for us

Is there anything or anyone we value more than Christ?

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8:21, Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

- **Mark 10:29**, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's"

8:22, But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

- Jesus used the same word, "dead" for both
- His father was probably still alive

Meaning – **Let me settle my earthly affairs first**

- Christ was not his first priority

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Matthew 10:37, Anyone who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

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I believe these are transactions we make with the Lord ahead of time.

- Then we've already made that decision no matter what He asks

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Luke 9:62, Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

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Please take a moment of prayerful inventory

- Ask the Lord if there is any area in your life you are not giving Him authority over
- Don't assume He will, or will not call you to leave it
- Hold it all with open hands, for Him to do with as He pleases
- Do you trust Him to do what is best with what is His?