

Gospel of Matthew “The Hasty and Hesitant”
Mathew 8:18-22
November 6, 2022

Matthew 8:18-22

18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 And a scribe came up and said to him, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” 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.” 21 Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 22 And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

Jesus has an interesting relationship with crowds.

“The Hasty.”

Matthew 13:20-21 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Jesus’ response reveals our private ambitions and what we hope to acquire from Him.

Matthew 8:21-22

21 Another of the disciples said to him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 22 And Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”

“The Hesitant.”

To follow Jesus and make Him first, impacts all other relationships.

Mark 8:34-37

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up

their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Elizabeth Elliot Quote -

“I think there is great deal of nonsense taught about this business of bearing our cross. For example, when people shrug their shoulders and say, “Well, I suppose that’s meant to be my cross,” they suggest that the cross is some inevitable circumstance which cannot be avoided. But the cross can be avoided.”

Carrying our cross is more an act of the will than just enduring difficult circumstances.

Elliot Quote continued -

“So I think that what Jesus is getting at here is the voluntary positive acceptance of what he is asking of us, whatever it may be. It is not a cop-out. It is not resignation or fatalism. It is a very positive voluntary act of the will. A “yes” to God. This should be the dominant theme of our lives. There are all kinds of difficulties we can’t avoid. We can go through life gritting our teeth saying “yes” to God in the sense of “Well, if this is what you want. I’ll take it.” Without ever once in joy and voluntary obedience saying “Yes, Lord, I delight to do this for you.”

“Taking up your cross” is a way of living not just a way of dying.

C.S. Lewis Quote

“The more I resist Him and try to live on my own, the more I become dominated by my own heredity, upbringing, surroundings and natural desires. It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself up to His personality, that I finally begin to have a real personality all of my own.”

Jesus dies on the cross at the end of his life, but a disciple dies at the beginning of his life.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Jesus was seen often slipping away from the crowds. Why do you think He did this? How should we think about crowds when it comes to Church? When is a crowd a good thing and when might it be a caution?
- The scribe seems to be making a hasty commitment to follow Jesus. How does Jesus encourage us to count the cost of following Him? Read Luke 14:25-33 for additional Scriptures. In what ways did you count the cost when you started following Jesus?
- To the disciple, Jesus encouraged him to follow and forget funeral planning. What point is Jesus trying to make? How has following Jesus impacted your important relationships?
- Mark 8:34-37 challenges us to take up our cross. How are you doing that? In light of cross bearing, is the Christian life meant to be drudgery? If not, what can we hope to experience?
- What would a recommitment towards discipleship and following Jesus look like for you?