

## SAYING YOU WILL WHEN YOU'RE NOT SURE

### Luke 9:57-62

**Introduction:** All of us are familiar with "friends" and people who say one thing but usually do the very opposite. We learn not to trust them with anything of importance and to not depend upon them as they usually don't follow up on what they agreed to. "Oh, I forgot," or "Something came up," or "I decided that I didn't really want to do that," and other "reasons." Then there are those who we can trust for anything for they have proven that they will be faithful to whatever they commit themselves to. Nothing is so important than our service to the Lord but we find that we often become like these very ones we have learned to not depend upon for they are not true to their word. We "commit" ourselves to do this or that for our Church but "things" come up and we find that we have not kept our word. Jesus mentioned "putting one's hand to the plow." Just exactly what was He talking about?

### I. BEING OBEDIENT AND USEFUL TO THE LORD DEMANDS DETERMINATION

1. "Putting one's hand to the plough" is engaging in the Lord's service.
  - Obedience demands that we renounce the world, that we abstain from sin and that we yield ourselves totally to whatever we have committed ourselves to do or be.
  - Becoming a Christian is a declaration of intent to be like Jesus Christ in all ways.
  - Professing Jesus Christ is declaring the intention of finishing the work Jesus started.
  
2. It is useless to start something if there is no serious intent to follow through with what has been started or promised.
  - When becoming a Christian we intend to:
    - be saved and glorify God with our lives.
  - When we turn from Jesus we:
    - are telling others that there's nothing to being a Christian.
    - are saying that following Jesus is too difficult, so we want out.
    - are showing that the world is far better than anything Jesus offers.
  - When we turn from Jesus we are bringing dishonor upon God.
    - We destroy anything we ever had between us and Jesus Christ.
    - It would have been better to have never tried the Christian life.
  - To back out of the Christian life is to declare that there's nothing to it and to do so defeats any good thing that might have already occurred.

### II. CONSTANTLY CHANGING THE MIND CAUSES ONE TO BE USELESS IN GOD'S SERVICE

1. Always "looking back" makes one useless for God's earthly kingdom for:
  - worldly appetites, worldly interests tend to draw one's heart away from God, thus creating a state of hypocrisy.
  - Remember Demas? He started out in the Christian way of life, only to return to the ways of the world. He deserted, he was useless in God's service.

2. "Looking back" makes one useless for God's heavenly kingdom for:
  - it shows a lack of supreme love to God with no real interest or delight in Godly things.
  - the heroes of the Bible (Moses, Abraham, Paul) left everything to follow God.
  - dread instead of happiness in God's presence and an eternity amid things unloved and any Godly service is a burden, a chore, instead of something done out of gratitude.
  - a wavering "professor" of Jesus is useless and would be miserable in God's heaven.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Those who have never "put their hands to the plow:"
  - Have no comfort in Jesus for they are but hypocrites.
  - To throw off allegiance to Jesus will bring only damnation.
2. Those who have "put their hands to the plow" and are looking back:"
  - Remember Lot's wife? Although she did not try to return to Sodom after leaving with Lot, she looked back with her eyes and heart.
  - To "put the hand to the plow" means total commitment to God. To turn back indicates that there never was sincerity in one's "commitment" and to do so indicates a lack of love, devotion and brings disgrace upon God.
3. Those who are determined to continue, these words:
  - Service for the Lord will often be heavy and tiring.
  - The more you work, the more your reward one day.
  - Forget what is behind or even beside you, but reach forth for the Lord.