

## SERVING GOD PART TIME

**Luke 9:57-62**

**Key verse: 9:62**

**Introduction:** It is not unusual for people to have more than one job and usually one is called a "part time" job (work). It is most difficult for a person with two jobs to give equal attention and energy to both jobs and therefore one of them is done less seriously. Jesus tells about three people who said they wanted to follow Him but each one had a something that stood in the way. Without giving any thought to what was involved in following Jesus one man said he wanted to follow Jesus. Another one said that he wanted to follow Jesus but he needed to take care of his father first. The last one said that he wanted to follow Jesus but first he wanted to go home to tell everyone good by and tie up some loose ends. Jesus used a farming illustration to point out how following Him required some serious thought and total dedication. He spoke of a man plowing and how that when plowing that man must keep his hands firmly on the handles of the plow and keep his eyes looking straight ahead or else the furrow (row) would not be straight. He could not be looking back to see where he had just plowed. Jesus remarked that nobody is fit to follow Him who would let go or look back.

### I. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN "PUTTING ONE'S HAND TO THE PLOW?"

1. To Jesus "putting one's hand to the plow" is saying **YES** to what God wants.
  - A public profession of faith.
  - Being baptized.
  - Serving within a Church.
  - Living as God wants.
  - It is agreeing to do anything that God wants.
2. God expects a person to keep his/her word and not let go.
  - It means having to give up some things.
  - It means making sacrifices.
  - It means giving God **first** place all the time.
  - It means fulfilling that commitment made to God.

### II. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE "LOOKS BACK?"

1. To look back indicates a change of mind.
  - It means "O.K. I'm not sure about this."
  - It means "Isn't there something else I could do better?"
  - It means "Other things look more important than this."
  - It means "This is for somebody else, but not for me."
  - It means "God picked the wrong person for this."
2. What could have been accomplished for the Lord is lost.
  - In a sense "dishonor" has been brought upon the Lord and His Church.
  - It tells the unbelieving world that being a Christian is really nothing different.
  - It puts that person out of fellowship with God and his/her fellow Christian.
  - It reveals that you cannot be depended upon.

### III. WHAT IS BEING UNFIT?

1. Being unfit is being unusable to God or the Church.
  - God requires total obedience whether leading or following.
  - Serving God requires putting aside any and everything that might draw one away.
  - Any person who takes his/her hands off the plow (lets go, backs off, quits) is unfit.
  - Demas changed his mind about serving God and went back home after a little while. There are many, many like Demas. Serve for a little while, then quit.
  - Insincerity, letting go, quitting, brings shame to God, Christ, and the Church.
  - There is no such thing as "part time" service to God or His Church.
2. Being unfit causes loss of reward at Judgment Day.
  - It reveals one's true thoughts about God, the Cross, the Christian life, and Heaven.
  - Countless men and women have given their lives for the cause of Christ, never "letting go" and on Judgment Day their reward will be great.
  - Those who "let go" or even refuse to try to serve will receive very little at Judgment Day.
  - God rewards Christians by what they have done on earth when given something to do.

### CONCLUSION:

1. To those who have never attempted to serve God:
  - There is little comfort if any to be had in being one of those who "never have" and "never will" serve God or His Church.
  - Christian, no matter who you are, God has called you many times to do something for Him.
    - To believe, then to follow, then to serve.
    - A special gift has been given by the Holy Spirit for you to use for God along with a special task that nobody else can do but you.
  - You will be called again and that will be for you to stand before the God you never served down here and this time you will do what you are told.
2. To those who started serving but quit:
  - To do something for the Lord is the greatest thing anyone can do with his/her life.
  - Quitting labels you as unfit and usable and you have declared by quitting that Jesus is not first in your life.
3. To those who are still serving and have never let go:
  - You have had many opportunities to quit and there will be many more but **DON'T**.
  - God is keeping the records and will reward you accordingly. Keep your hands to the plow and eyes straight ahead and great will be your reward.