

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 9:57-62](#).
- B. Tonight, I want to talk about spirituality, being spiritual.
- C. The Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith (see Eph. 2:8-9). To be saved in this way, our faith must be exemplified in what we do. The NT has told us what to do.

I. ON BEING SPIRITUAL, BEING A DISCIPLE.

- A. Jesus has given us the formula for being a disciple (Lk. 9:23).
[And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."](#)
 - 1. Deny self.
 - 2. Take up our cross (endure).
 - 3. Follow Him.*I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!*
- B. Paul told us about crucifying self and letting Jesus live in our bodies (Gal. 2:20).
["I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."](#)
 - 1. Be crucified.
 - 2. Live by faith.*I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!*
- C. Our daily living is to be that of a sacrifice (Rom. 12:1-2).
[I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.](#)
 - 1. Present your bodies as holy.
 - 2. Be a living sacrifice.
 - 3. Serve and worship.
 - 4. Do not be conformed to the world.
 - 5. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!*
- D. We are not to be stagnate, but to grow in grace and knowledge (2Pet. 3:17-18).
[You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.](#)
 - 1. Be on guard.
 - 2. Be steadfast.
 - 3. Grow in grace (Xian conduct).
 - 4. Grow in knowledge.*I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!*

II. GOD ASKS FOR THE BEST WE CAN DO.

- A. Christians are to work up to their potential.
 - 1. The parable of the virgins tells us to be ready (Mt. 25:1-13).
 - 2. The parable of the talents tells us to do all we can do (Mt. 25:14-30).*I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!*
- B. The OT prophet Micah speaks of what God requires of us (Mic. 6:8).
[He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?](#)

1. To do justice.
2. To love kindness.
3. Walk humbly with your God

I'm glad God didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!

- C. James encourages us with religion that is pure and undefiled (Jas. 1:27).

This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

1. We are to have a religion that is God-centered (not self-centered).
2. We are to meet the needs of those less fortunate.
3. We are to stay pure and undefiled from the sinful ways of the world.

I'm glad Jesus didn't ask anymore than that; that is enough!

III. THE MAIN POINT.

- A. The main point is this: God asks no more of man than these things, but He also asks no less! James said, he who know the right thing to do, and does it not, to him it is sin (see Jas. 4:17).

- B. Let's look at the same list again from this angle--God demands no less.

1. See Lk. 9:23.

And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

- a. Deny self--all of self, not just part of it.
- b. Take up our cross (endure)--when the going gets tough, the tough get going.
- c. Follow Him--whether it is convenient or not.

God will not settle for anything less!

2. See Gal. 2:20.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."

- a. Be crucified--get rid of all your pride and ego, not just some of it.
- b. Live by faith--complete trust in God to meet your physical and spiritual needs.

God will not settle for anything less!

3. See Rom. 12:1-2.

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- a. Present your bodies as holy--that means diet, exercise, care.
- b. Be a living sacrifice--you can't give to God anything that cost you nothing (see 2Sam. 24:24).
- c. Serve and worship--Sun. PM and Wed. PM are important.
- d. Do not be conformed to the world--just because everyone else is doing it doesn't make it right.
- e. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind--it's time to repent and think differently.

God will not settle for anything less!

4. See 2Pet. 3:17-18.

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, [18] but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- a. Be on guard--lest we fall asleep spiritually and fall into complacency.
- b. Be steadfast--this takes work to stay on top of prayer and meditation, etc.
- c. Grow in grace (Xian conduct)--is your life an example?
- d. Grow in knowledge--are you increasing in your knowledge of the God's word?

God will not settle for anything less!

- C. In the book of Malachi, God was very displeased with the priests giving Him second-best. They were trying to serve God by giving less than what He desired.

1. They gave blemished sheep for sacrifice (see Mal. 1:6-10).
 2. They gave less than their tithe and offerings (see Mal. 3:8-10).
- D. Jesus taught a lesson about those who follow, but then turn back (Lk. 9:57-62).
 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." **58** And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." **59** And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." **60** But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." **61** Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." **62** But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
- E. Those who know God's will and don't do it are in for a more severe punishment (Lk. 12:47; Heb. 10:29-31).
(Lk 12:47) "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes,"
(Heb 10:29-31) How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." **31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God asks for everything!
- B. He wants nothing more than what we can give, and will settle for nothing less.
- C. The invitation for those who have been giving less than what they can.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.