



Luke 9:57-62

“Following Jesus Will Cost You”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

4-28-2024

Consult the Scriptures:

Luke 9:57-62

(Other Scripture referenced: 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:11-14; Rev. 3:15-20; Jn. 16:33; Lk. 22:33; Ex. 20:12; 1 Kgs. 19:19-21; Lk. 14:26)

Consult the Scholars:

[Barna Group] *“Casual Christianity is faith in moderation. It allows them to feel religious without having to prioritize their faith. Christianity is a low-risk, predictable proposition for this tribe, providing a faith perspective that is not demanding. A Casual Christian can be all the things that they esteem: a nice human being, a family person, religious, an exemplary citizen, a reliable employee – and never have to publicly defend or represent difficult moral or social positions or even lose much sleep over their private choices as long as they mean well and generally do their best. From their perspective, their brand of faith practice is genuine, realistic and practical. To them, Casual Christianity is the best of all worlds; it encourages them to be a better person than if they had been irreligious, yet it is not a faith into which they feel compelled to heavily invest themselves.”* (Barna. 2009. “Casual Christians and the Future of America.” Barna Group. Accessed April 26, 2024)

Dallas Willard—

“God is not opposed to effort but to earning.” (Alan Andrews, Gen. Ed., “The Kingdom Life” [Colorado Springs, Co: NavPress, 2010], p. 14)

Discuss:

1. Pastor Patrick opened the sermon by referencing Matt Chandler comparing preachers to flight attendants. What was the point? How did it relate to the subject of “casual Christianity?”
2. Read the Barna quote (above) and discuss. What strikes you about this definition of “casual Christianity?” What challenges you? What do you find convicting?
3. How does Scripture confront the “casual Christian” (See 1 Cor. 3:1-3, Heb. 5:11-14, Rev. 3:15-20).
4. Pastor Patrick said that there is a difference between the words “free” and “cheap.” What did he mean? How does this relate to the gospel and to following Jesus?
5. Read the quote from Dallas Willard (above) and discuss. What does that mean? What Scripture comes to mind? Why is this important?
6. Read Luke 9:57-62 and discuss. What observations do you make? What strikes you about this passage?
7. Pastor Patrick made two statements: (1) Following Jesus will cost you (v. 57-58), and (2) Following Jesus must be your priority (v. 59-62). How did this make you feel? What was encouraging and what was challenging?
8. What new insights did you take away? What questions do you still have?