



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Is Jesus Worth It?

Passage: Luke 18:28–34

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: There are times in life when even the strongest Christian wonders whether it is really worth it to follow Jesus. Once you make a total life commitment to Christ, there are certain commands you are committed to obey, certain pleasures you choose to forego, and certain sacrifices you are compelled to make. Sometimes it is so hard to follow Jesus that it is tempting to wonder whether it is really worth all the trouble. Life is better with Jesus, but it doesn't always seem that way.

"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him." (Luke 5:11)

I. An Honest Question

- A. The rich man prized what he owned too much to give it all away for Jesus. He wasn't willing to give Christ His rightful place on the throne of his life but chose to keep his riches there.
- B. Although the disciples may not have given their money to the poor, they had left all their possessions behind to follow Jesus. So, what kind of reward would Jesus have for them?

"Behold, we have forsaken all. What shall we have therefore?" (Matthew 19:27)

II. Leaving It All Behind



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- A. There is a general sense in which every believer must do this.

A Christian is someone who has decided to have Jesus instead of anything and everything else the world has to offer.

"O Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I confess from my heart, that I am by nature a lost sinner. I am fully convinced that I am utterly unable to help myself. But as there is a covenant of grace, I do now take hold of that covenant, for life and salvation to me; believing on the name of Christ crucified, who made atonement, paid the ransom, and brought everlasting righteousness for poor sinners. I resign myself, soul and body, to him, to be saved by his blood alone. I give up myself wholly unto him, to serve him for ever." - Thomas Boston

- B. Some Christians are called to go beyond this, however, and to make some more specific sacrifices.

For the sake of the kingdom of God, Jesus called some of His servants to leave their homes and their families behind in some parts of the world.

III. Blessings Now and Later

- A. In the short term, Jesus promises to give more to us than we give up for Him.

If we are called to leave home or family for the kingdom of God, He will give us "manifold more". This promise is true in a literal sense, because when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we become part of the family of God.

"'Manifold more' means the believer shall find in Christ a full equivalent for anything that he is obliged to give up for Christ's sake. He shall find such peace, and hope, and joy, and comfort, and rest, in communion with the Father and the Son, so that his losses shall be more than counterbalanced by his gains." - J. C. Ryle

*"Jesus! I do now receive him, More than all in him I find;
He hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine.
Hallelujah! What a Savior! Hallelujah!
What a Friend! Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end." - J. Wilbur Chapman*



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B. In the long term, Jesus promises eternal life.

1. Eternal life is endless in its duration.
2. Eternal life is a free life.
3. Eternal life is a full life.
4. Best of all, it is a life full of God, lived in the very presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:23-24)

IV. Are We Worth It?

We know it was worth it because Jesus did it, and because the Scripture tells us why:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Conclusion: The disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying, but He said it anyway so that they would understand it and also that we would understand. Do you understand that Jesus died and rose again so that you might have eternal life? If you do understand this, then you know that Jesus is worth it. Whatever God is calling you to give up for His kingdom, do not hesitate. Jesus will more than make it up to you. But never forget that Jesus is worth it to us only because we were worth it to Him, on the cross where He shed His blood for our sins.



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