

**Pastor Jeno Erdelyi, 8/31/25**  
**Would You Rather Walk or Drop?**  
**Matthew 19:16-22 & Matthew 4:18-22**

**An attached heart misses the Kingdom OPPORTUNITY**

The man asks a question that is common for many people when they consider earning eternal life. He wants to know what good work or noble deed he must do to inherit eternal life. *Jesus has completed that which we cannot even start.* (Jn. 19:30; Heb.10:10-12; Col. 2:13-14). Jesus does answer the man's question by telling him that in order to gain eternal life by your doing, you must keep all the commandments, to their fullest sense – perfectly. Jesus asks him about the commandments that are dealing with his relationship with other people. The young man implies that he kept not only these commands, but also the entire law. But he has a sense that he is still missing something. In a real sense, the man was focusing on his external obedience, but Jesus is concerned with internal heart condition. The young man is about to find out what Jesus already knew that money was ruling his life. *True discipleship is not about what you do, it is about Who rules your heart.* The young man wanted eternal life, but he wanted it on his terms. Jesus put His finger on the one thing that caused him to walk away. *Eternal life requires voluntary surrender, but the world demands servitude.*

**A surrendered heart is free to FOLLOW**

Here we see the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John. We know from the Gospel of John (John 1:35-42), that at this point, these men already knew Jesus. Jesus invites them to leave their profession (Mark 1:20) and dedicate themselves to following Him wholeheartedly. *God usually calls people while they are busy doing something.* At that time, it was a common practice for rabbis to have disciples. So, this is not an unusual or cultish offer to ask these men to be with Him continually and learn from Him. *They followed not because they understood everything, but rather because they trusted Jesus.* While others make excuses (Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62), there is no record of hesitation or bargaining from these disciples. This willing obedience shows a readiness to leave behind everything familiar like career, comfort, and family for a calling they barely understood. *Deep trust in Jesus and a willing heart to serve gives cause to drop your excuses.* Following Jesus means leaving some things behind, and this willingness will result in spiritual growth.