

SURRENDERED AND AVAILABLE

"THE CHOSEN" SERIES | PART 2 OF 8

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MARK 3:14 NIV

He appointed twelve that they might **be with him...**

LUKE 5:27–32 NIV

SEE ALSO: MARK 2:13–19, MATTHEW 9:9–13

"Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and **Levi got up, left everything and followed him.**

ONE OF THE MOST SINISTER RISKS OF WATCHING THIS SERIES IS OVER-
ROMANTICIZING "HOW IT WOULD HAVE BEEN" TO FOLLOW JESUS THEN,
RATHER THAN ASKING OURSELVES HOW WE ARE FOLLOWING JESUS NOW.

MATTHEW 10:32–39 NIV

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven...whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven..."³⁷ Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.³⁸ **Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** ³⁹**Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it..."**

TRUE DISCIPLES LEAVE EVERYTHING:

1. ...anything competing with Him for my value or allegiance or purpose.
2. ...anyone that hinders my embrace of His ways and His plan.
3. ...any mindset or affection that compromises my total worship and surrender.

How do my closest relationships influence me?

Are they more likely to build my passion for Jesus, or question it?

Am I more likely to look for more ways to enter His purposes,
or entertain myself in ways of my own choosing?

What clues can I gather about my values

when I examine my calendar or my bank account?

Who are my friends? Where is my money invested? Where is my time spent?

1 JOHN 1:1–3 NIV

...this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²**The life appeared;** we have **seen it** and testify to it, and we proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and **has appeared to us.** ³We proclaim to you what **we have seen and heard**, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

LEAVING ALL is actually possible when I'm convinced He is my only answer,
my only hope, and my only path to the eternal life I'm longing for.

"WHAT ELSE ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH A _____ LIKE YOURS?"

**Am I willing to examine my life to see what attracts my attention, my
ambitions, or my affections as much as Jesus?**

THEY FOLLOWED HIM TO DEATH:

Peter: crucified upside down in Rome (c. AD 64–68)

James (son of Zebedee): beheaded by the sword (AD 44)

John: died of old age, exiled on isle of Patmos, after surviving being boiled in oil (c. AD 98–100)

Andrew: crucified on a cross in Greece (c. AD 60–70)

Philip: crucified in Hierapolis (c. AD 80)

Bartholomew: flayed alive, then beheaded (c. AD 68–71)

Thomas: speared to death in India (c. AD 72)

Matthew: killed with a sword (c. AD 60–70)

James (son of Alphaeus): stoned, then clubbed to death (c. AD 62)

Thaddaeus: clubbed to death in Persia c. AD 65)

Simon the Zealot: sawn in half in Persia (c. AD 65)

THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY: AN EXPOSITION OF THE SCRIPTURES

*“Discipleship does not mean one enjoys glory immediately. A person who **would** follow Jesus **must deny himself** and all his ambitions. He must **take up his cross and follow Jesus**. In the Roman Empire a convicted criminal, when taken to be crucified, was forced to carry his own cross. **This showed publicly that he was then under and submissive to the rule he had been opposing. Likewise Jesus’ disciples must demonstrate their submission to the One against whom they had rebelled.** The path Jesus and His followers would travel would be a road of sorrow and suffering. But in so losing one’s **life**, one would truly **find** a better **life**...If it were possible for an individual, in preserving his own life, to gain **the whole world**, but in the process lose **his soul**, of what value then would be the possessions of the world? **True discipleship involves following Christ and doing His will, wherever that path might lead.**”*

LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND...

- doesn’t mean I quit my job and just ask God to feed me. The Bible condemns a bad work ethic.**
- doesn’t mean I abandon or disdain those who don’t follow Jesus. My love is an influence!
- is about allowing Jesus to shape my value system.
- is about being totally surrendered to a life of trusting and obeying Jesus.
- is the decision to be present, available and pursuing Jesus, **no matter the cost or opposition.**

LET’S BE CLEAR ON A FEW THINGS:

- The Bible commands believers to endeavor to “live at peace with all people”. ROM 12:17-18
- Following Jesus will produce love toward others, not judgment/disdain. ROM 5:5, 1 JN 3:13-14
- We show love but must limit time w/sinful friends if we are prone to fail. 2 TIM 2:22, PROV 13:20
- Some claim to be hated for their faith in Jesus but the true cause is their own sin. 1 PET 2:19-21

SURRENDER TO JESUS:

- Involves pursuing His truth, His plan and His presence.
- Involves learning from other believers and participating in the life we share with Him.
- Requires discernment to know His voice/ways so we don’t merely live for the approval of others.
- Requires humility and spiritual hunger so we don’t ignore truth based on the messenger God chooses to use.

**** FULL-TIME DEVOTION TO KINGDOM WORK IS A UNIQUE CALLING THAT NOT ALL WILL RECEIVE, BUT ALL HAVE A PLACE AND ROLE IN THE KINGDOM, AND THAT ROLE ALWAYS INCLUDES WORK TO PROVIDE FOR YOUR NEEDS AND THOSE OF YOUR FAMILY. THE BIBLE SPEAKS REPEATEDLY OF THE NECESSITY OF A GOOD WORK ETHIC BASED IN FAITH.**

1 TIMOTHY 5:8-10

2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-14

*** THERE IS A BIBLICAL PRECEDENT (SET GENERATIONS BEFORE AND EMBRACED BY JESUS) OF LEADERS AND TEACHERS TO BE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED AS THEY DEVOTE THEMSELVES FULL-TIME TO THE DEMAND OF KINGDOM WORK. AND IT IS WORK!**

LUKE 8:1-3 (JESUS & DISCIPLES SUPPORTED)

1 TIM 5:17-18 (PAUL’S TEACHING ON THIS)