

TOTALLY COMMITTED

Luke 9:18-26

INTRODUCTION: In Texas Hold "Em" when a player says "All in!" It means he is betting everything I have. "I am committing all that I've got." Another term that exemplifies the same thought is to "bet the ranch!" Today we call it "Going all in!" Two thousand years ago the Lord Jesus Christ challenged His disciples to "go all in!" Our Lord Jesus is not looking for weekend warriors; He is looking for full-time spiritual Marines! Jesus set the example for each of us of what it means to go all in: John 15:12-14.

I. WE MUST DENY OURSELVES!

Jesus first three words in Luke 9:23 set the tone here: "If any man..." Most people will never go all in for the Lord but the Lord will accept anyone who desires to go all in for Him. Jesus set out the cost of true discipleship: "let him deny himself," There is a huge cost to being Jesus disciple: you must deny yourself! Romans 12:1-2. This world tries to tell us to exalt ourselves, admire ourselves and have high esteem for ourselves.

II. WE MUST DIE TO OURSELVES!

Let's look at Luke 9:23 again. Notice the end of the verse: "and take up his cross daily and follow me." That doesn't translate to well with us today. The cross was a symbol of death. When you take up your cross you are dying to yourself, your ego, your desires, your wants, your ambitions all must die if you are going to follow Jesus. Jesus is asking us to do for Him what He did for us: Luke 9:21-22; Luke 9:24. It all comes down to two choices: You can either keep your life for yourself and eventually lose it or you can lose your life for Jesus now and eternally keep it. It is only those who are willing to give up everything for Jesus who will gain everything from Jesus.

III. WE MUST DEVOTE OURSELVES TO CHRIST!

Luke 9:23: that word "follow" is a very interesting word. It means "to walk in the same way" or "to take the same road." The Apostle Paul said if you desire to follow Christ you must crucify yourself: Galatians 2:20. The only way you are ever all in with Jesus is when you completely surrender your self will to Jesus. Surrender is an unpopular word today and nobody wants to lose their rights. When we think about surrender we think of losing the battle. Yet our Lord time after time told His disciples the only way to true victory is through surrender. The bottom line in life is you will either waste your life by trying to hold onto it or you will go all in with Jesus and by surrendering your life to Him you will gain your life. Luke 9:25. Everyone goes all in either for this world or by dying to self and living for Jesus for the world to come. Here is the hard question for today: "Are you all in for Jesus or are you only going part way and trying to hold onto this life?"

Dave all verses are from the NIV