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| Slide # | Sermon |
| 1 | Intro – How many times have you heard – “You get what you pay for!”  Basically, Good advice – spend more now for a product that lasts longer, functions better. Thus, over the long haul, the product costs less and gives better service.  Is this true for faith and Christian life? |
| 2 | Let us turn to Luke 9:51-62, part of our scripture for today  ***51****As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.****52****And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready* ***53****but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem.****54****When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”****55****But Jesus turned and rebuked them.* |
| 3 | Today’s text says – “Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem”   * Ultimate destination – Jerusalem where his life and ministry would come to a climax * Spiritual journey – there he’d show real meaning of Messiah and Discipleship. * Would require great commitment, cost of discipleship is high.   “You get what you pay for!”  Are you willing to pay for what we get? |
| 4 | Luke 56-58– Then he and his disciples went to another village*.* AS they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go. And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has no where to lay his head.”  Meaning – Discipleship is a willingness to be vulnerable; to live without security – REPEAT |
| 5 | What does it mean to be vulnerable, to live without security?  Ex: Jesus – elected to not have the security of human home   * Elected to not be ‘ordained’ part of the clergy * Elected not to demand human needs met before ministering   He wasn’t concerned with having place to sleep as he traveled. Camps and volunteer homes was enough.  How do we allow our need for security limit our following of Jesus Christ?  Most of us say to ourselves: God let me get my   * Home built and mostly paid for * Let me provide for my kids now and get them set for college * Let me get my retirement plans in order and funded * Our nation says, let us have the strongest military possible.   Then Lord, I’ll be ready to serve you!  But you know most of our life is over when we build this much security.  Not saying these are unimportant – Hear me!  But I’m saying they cannot be used as excuses for NOT being an active part of God’s Kingdom. |
| 6 | **\*\* God’s work and God’s presence in our lives is the #1 Priority! \*\***  **Until we get this right – all the human security we build can be taken away in an instant and we are left hanging.**  Ex: Even with strongest military – soldiers dying – roadside bombs, terrorist, ETC  Real security – lasting security is in God through Jesus Christ. |
| 7 | There was a trapeze artist from the Circus who once admitted the net underneath was there to keep them from breaking their necks, but added, “The net also keeps us from falling. Imagine there is no net. We would be so nervous that we could be more likely to miss and fall. If there wasn’t a net, we would not dare to do some of the things we do. But because there is a net, we dare to make 2 turns, sometimes 3 or more – thanks to the net. “  What I believe Jesus is saying – if we put our faith in God – try to do His will – then God will provide our security.  And when we are secure in God, we can dare to attempt big things for God.  We can dare to be holy.  We can dare to be obedient.  We can dare to love our enemies and take a stand for right,  Dare to open facilities to folks ‘not like’ us  Dare to be extravagant in giving.  **(CLICK slide for fly-in)** Because we know that the eternal arms of God will hold us if we fall. |
| 8 | Following Christ well look foolish to the world but will change your life and give you a secure home in God’s Kingdom.  You get what you pay for – Get real security – we get to trust totally in God, not in ourselves. |
| 9 | ***59****He said to another man, “Follow me. ”But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”****60****Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”****61****Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”*  Being said here – the man meant , “Let me stay at home with my father as long as he lives and needs me. When he is gone and all affairs are settled, then I will follow you.”  The urgency of the kingdom superseded family. That is; “Let the dead bury their own dead”. This is “let those who are dying (those that aren’t listening nor learning nor accepting God’s in-breaking kingdom) caught up in the daily affairs that had to decay and death, let them perform burials. “But as for you go and proclaim the King of God. |
| 10 | Family is important! Playing something in life because it is best for the kids is necessary. Teaching kids to work is important.  -Taking family vacations that teach and elevate such as going to historic places, or other cultures will cost more and be harder to do but its worth it. |
| 11 | But - Jesus is saying if family is a priority over God – then it is wrong!  God first then other stuff will be okay – even better. When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place.  Vs 61 – Claims of the Kingdom takes precedence over claims of family. For a son to leave his family, he must have permission from the father, head of the family.  The reluctant follower meant, “Let me go and see if it is all right, gain my father’s blessing and then come back to be a disciple.  In the presence of his own mother, Jesus said, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and do it.” God is God, so Jesus made the message unbelievably forceful and unmistakably clear. “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother and wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even life itself, cannot be my disciple. (14:26) – HATE here means ‘love less’. For dramatic effect, he made it clear that family must not hold us back from God’s Kingdom.  How can this be – that Jesus would say we must ignore, forget – even hate out family to be part of God’s Kingdom  – But  He also says:   * love your enemies * love the little children * He loved and forgave the thief on the cross. |
| 12 | What’s the deal?  Ex: I struggled for 7 years about answering a call to be a minister. Had many concerns – a major one was my dad.  Dad – very perceptive in his own way. From the very beginning, he thought Jim Bakker of the former PLT Club was a fraud – before most people even knew of his ministry.  He’s also had a few negative experiences with ministers in his lifetime.  When I suggested that I might become a minister – well – that went over like a ‘lead balloon’.  Caught between love and respect for dad and pleasing him and answering God’s call to be a minister in His Kingdom. Finally, without his approval – went to seminary. He later accepted it.  **Click to fly in** When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place |
| 13 | Family is important!   * + Delaying something in your life because it is best for the kids is often necessary   + Spending extra money and time taking kids on educational type vacations or visiting other cultures is hard but worth it.   + Jesus is not saying dump your family responsibilities. But Jesus is saying family cannot be more important than your relationship with God and the work you are to do for the Kingdom.   + God must be first.   + Are you willing to pay the right price for your relationship with God? |
| 14 | Vs 62 - *Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”*  Meaning – once committed, don’t look back – your life is ahead.  A kingdom has a king or queen to rule as an absolute sovereign. The Kingdom of God is the realm of God’s total and complete rule. TO live in God’s Kingdom is to give God complete allegiance.  Jesus calls us to discipleship, which is in fact a call to full participation in the Kingdom of God. |
| 15 | EX: young teen – grandfather had a mule named Duck – taught me to plow with Duck. Duck, an old mule by then, knew the ropes. Basically, had to hang on and keep up.  But would get into trouble if I didn’t pay attention – if I didn’t keep looking ahead. If I turned my head to look at where we have been then inevitably, I’d plow out some of the garden’s plants and that would raise my grandfather’s voice!  Point 4: Jesus says that once we commit to him – don’t look back and be tempted to return to the good ole days.  Our future is ahead – the kingdom is opening into the future! |
| 16 | Story of a Bishop of the church in the late 1800s  Having a meal with president of a midwestern religious college  In conversation, Bishop declared that surely Jesus would return soon – after all, just about everything in nature had been discovered and all inventions conceived.  College professor politely but firmly disagreed  Bishop asked the president to name just one invention the future held.  President said that he was certain that humans would be able to fly in the next 50 years.  “Nonsense!”, sputtered the outraged Bishop, “Only angels are intended to fly!”  The bishop’s name was Wright and he had 2 sons at home who would prove to have greater vision than their father. Their names - Orville and Wilbur. God’s plan for you is the priority -serve God first! |
| 17 | Conclusion  You Get What You Pay For – sound advice in today’s world.  Quality comes with a price  Our redemption came with a price – Jesus died on the cross for us to show God’s love for us.  In the Kingdom of God, our participation is an all or nothing proposition.  Either you are in or not!  Standing with one foot in your selfish desires and the other foot in God’s Kingdom doesn’t work.  It’s frustrating, confusing, heart-breaking  Jesus says – Welcome, come into the Kingdom – it will make you complete, whole… it will change your life! |
| 18 | It costs to follow Jesus but it costs more not to. The cost of Discipleship is High BUT it is worth it! |
| 19 | Are you part of God’s Kingdom, or still standing out looking in?  Amen. |