

“They Left Everything and Followed Him” (Part 2)
Luke 5:1-11,27-28; 9:23-26

*“There is a common, worldly kind of Christianity in this day, which many have, and think they have enough—a cheap Christianity which offends nobody, and requires no sacrifice—which costs nothing, and **is worth nothing.**” — (J.C. Ryle)*

- Luke 9:23-26
 - *“If anyone”*: The call to follow Christ goes out to all! It is a general call and whoever comes to Jesus **on His terms** will not be turned away. We are not saved by doing these things, **the evidence** of our salvation are these things.
 - *“And by this **we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments....whoever says he abides in Him, ought to walk in the same way that He walked.**” (1 John 2:3,6)*
 - *“Let him (anyone) deny himself”*: In salvation, Christ goes from last **to first** and we go from first **to last**.
 - *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength....You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12:30-31)*
 - *“Take up his cross daily”*: This **denying** and **dying** is a daily decision; a daily battle; a daily conscious effort.
 - *“If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied....I die everyday!” (1 Corinthians 15:19,31b)*
 - *“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20; cf. 2 Corinthians 11:23-29)*
 - *“And follow Me”*: There is a pursuit of Christ. We are desiring to know Him, to enjoy Him, to delight in Him. **Christ is the prize of salvation!**
 - *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)*
 - Clear lines are drawn! The world and the church SEES these realities!
 - Gaining the world and gaining Christ are opposed to each other!
 - I lose the world or I lose Christ, but I can’t have both.
 - The world would find the pursuit of Christ undesirable and the Christian would see the pursuit of the world undesirable.
 - We live like we are going to a place where Christ and His way of life is celebrated for all eternity.
 - If we are ashamed **of Christ** and **His words** then Christ we will be ashamed when He returns (1 John 2:28-29).
 - **Christ will say, “I would be ashamed to have someone like you in my kingdom based on the way you lived.”**
- Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:13-17; 2 Peter 3:10-14

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of January we are collecting monetary donations for Heartbeats. For more information about Heartbeats and what they do, please see the board in the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations, or you can give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for Heartbeats.

TODAY is the last day we are collecting donations for Heartbeats.

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** We are having a Church Night of Prayer TONIGHT from 5:30-7pm. If you would like to participate in this, we have a sign-up list on the table in the entryway. We have that hour and a half broken up into 15 minute increments, you are welcome to sign up for as many time slots as you would like to. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be participating in and celebrating Communion together as a church body NEXT Sunday, February 4th.

★**NEW MEMBERS CLASS:** If you are interested in becoming a church member, we are having a New Members Class starting Sunday, February 18th, from 9-10am in the Fellowship Hall.

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of a couple of volunteers who would like to serve in the Cleaning Ministry. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, or if you have any questions about serving in this ministry, please see Krystal Scarberry.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch TODAY immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the lunch and the fellowship with us!