

Please Don't Send Me to Africa

(Luke 9:57)

- Introduction:**
1. Have you ever been a part of or known of a congregation of God's people who underwent a church split?
 2. Have you ever known someone to get mad or offended over something and leave a congregation?
 3. Here are reasons for division that I have experienced:
 - a. Padding the pews.
 - b. The time of worship (6:30 or 7:00).
 - c. Adding a song between the Lord's Supper and the Collection.
 - d. How to count the assembly.
 - e. Whether we hang a "totals" board.
 - f. Whether the preacher can have a beard.
 - g. Whether you can have Bible class material or Bible only.
 - h. Steeple & Stained glass windows.
 - i. The use of PowerPoint.
 - j. Wearing masks during a pandemic.
 4. Do the above issues rise to the level of martyrdom?
 5. Could it be that some churches and some Christians in America have become irrelevant to the cause of Christ, spending their energy on shallow, petty grievances, while deceiving themselves into thinking they're fighting the good fight of faith?
 6. At the end of Luke 9, Jesus has a conversation with three men that invoke three difficult questions that demand introspection.
 7. Let's consider those three questions today.

I. Comfort or the Cross?

- A. (Luke 9:57-58).
- B. The man who made the statement was a scribe (Matthew 8:19).
- C. This man seems eager to follow Jesus.
- D. But what Jesus brings to his attention is that discipleship is not a path to more comfort, higher status, or greater ease, but to self-denial.
- E. (Luke 9:23) Take up a cross.
 1. Are we peddling a cheap, easy gospel, foreign to Scripture in which we act as though the biggest sacrifice we beg people to make is to get wet?
 2. (Luke 14:25-33) Count the cost.
- F. Remember, this is an instruction to the spiritually mature, but to one who is considering whether to follow Jesus or not.
- G. Ills. – "Please Don't Send Me to Africa."
- H. Ills. – "What if I had 100 million dollars?"
- I. Are you willing to suffer and sacrifice to follow Jesus?

II. The Voluntary or Vital?

- A. (Luke 9:59-60).
- B. This command is intended to impress on us the level of commitment it requires to be a disciple of Jesus.
- C. Is there anything that could tear you away from your father's funeral?
- D. Should it not weigh on us that in the past 2000 years, there are still people who do not know the gospel of the kingdom?
- E. Is making known the gospel of Christ more important to you than your own father's funeral?

III. Undecided or Undivided?

- A. (Luke 9:61-62).
- B. Do we ever get distracted from doing good?
- C. (Philippians 2:13).
- D. Even with hearing today's message, we might say, "Yeah, he's right. I need to do better." But a week/month/year later, we haven't changed and we're still debating.
- E. We must get off the fence and choose sides (1 Kings 18:21).

- Conclusion:**
- 1. The point of this lesson is to remind you that it is costly to follow Jesus.
 - 2. We must give up everything and present our bodies as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
 - 3. So how would you answer these three questions?
 - a. Would you follow Jesus if it meant losing your home and possessions?
 - b. Would you follow Jesus if it meant not attending your father's funeral?
 - c. Would you follow Jesus if he called you away from your family?
 - 4. So, the question for all of us is this: "Is Jesus enough for you?"