First Things First – October 19, 2014

Introduction:

This afternoon, we are going to try something a little bit different. Before I start, I have to thank Shawn Drake at Bel Aire Baptist Church for such a great idea. Today, each one of your should have received four slips of paper when you got your bulletin. Did everyone get them? On each slip of paper there is a word. The words are: Family, Work, Possessions and Health. I want you to choose which one of these you could live without. Hold up that slip of paper and tear it in half. Pretty easy right? Now I want you to choose from the remaining three and again choose one that you could live without, hold it up and tear it in half. Now you have two left. Choose again. Now you are left with one piece of paper. Could you live without that one thing? I know that you already had to make a tough choice choosing which ones you could live without. Could you give up the last thing on the paper in your hand? What would be left for you in life? I can only speak for myself, but after the pain of losing all of those things I know I would have Jesus Christ. This my brothers and sisters is what Jesus told followers what they must do to be his disciple. Today, let’s look at Luke 9:57-62 and see what must come first in the call to discipleship.

1. Decisions (Lk. 9:57,58)
   1. Someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” – This meant he was willing to give up his family and his land to follow Jesus
   2. When we agreed to follow Jesus did we agree to give up our father and mother, brothers and sisters, land and home for his name’s sake?
   3. We all must evaluate our ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­commitment to Christ.
      1. Did we mean it when we said “I will follow you wherever you go?”
      2. Being Christian is more than just coming to church or being a member
      3. Jesus gave them caution in verse 58 - “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” His ministry had no permanent location, served the people not his own comforts.
      4. Jesus was going to Jerusalem where he knew he was going to be crucified. He didn’t let anything stop that because he put His father first.
      5. I’m a follower of Christ, but….
   4. Is God first in your life, no matter what?
2. Delay (Lk. 9:59,60)
   1. A second would be follower of Christ desires to postpone his commitment.
   2. One of the greatest problems with Christians today is the phrase, “I’ll follow the Lord but first…”
   3. God must be first, even over family. – if we put God first, everything else will fall into place
   4. A third wanted to go home to say goodbye.
   5. Do we allow other things to delay following Christ?
   6. Don’t get sidetracked by the things life throws in your path, but focus on the Kingdom.
3. Determination (Lk. 9:62)
   1. The difference between following Him and falling along the wayside is determination.
   2. Are you committed in your decision? Are you ready to stick with it until the end, even when things get tough?
   3. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Mt. 6:33)

Conclusion:

In our call to worship we saw the calling of the first disciples and what they left behind when Jesus said to them, “Follow me, I will make you become fishers of men.” They jumped out of their boats and followed him. Today I am not telling you to give up your homes and empty your savings, but what I am telling you is that Jesus has called you to follow him. I am going to ask you to do something…tonight, make an appointment with God and spend some time in prayer with Him. Ask Him to remove the things that are getting in the way of you following Him. Make first things first.

2 Thess. 3:16, 18

16Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

18The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.