

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican
1-4-17

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WILL WE ADJUST OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2018?

“And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow Thee; but let me first go bid them farewell which are at home at my house.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God’ (Luke 9:61-62).

- “I will follow You, Lord, but first let me see if my parents approve.”
- “I will follow You, Lord, but first let me go to a few more parties, and as soon as I get that out of my system, I will settle down.”
- “I will follow You, Lord, but first let me get married. As soon as I establish a home, I will follow you.”
- “We will follow You, Lord, but first let us raise our children. They are so small now, and it is difficult to carry them along while following You.”
- “We will follow You, Lord, but first let us get our children through high school. We have to work six days a week to pay the bills, and the children are so busy with school activities that there just is not time to follow You.”
- “I would like to follow you now, Lord, but I must first see if my husband will come, too. I do not want to follow You alone.”
- “I will follow You, Lord, but first let me retire. Then I will have time to follow You.”
- “I would like to follow You, Lord, but it is too late now. I have not done it all these years, and you cannot teach an old dog new tricks.”

Death comes at last, and the day of salvation is over. One is separated from God eternally because one put off following Christ until it was too late.

Is this the way 2017 went for you? Is that what you want for 2018? Will things be different this new year of your life? Will you make the commitment that is needed to follow the Lord?

Luke 9:57-62 (NASB)

57 And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His

head.” 59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Permit me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” 61 And another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

What does it mean to follow Jesus? Does it require something of us, or is it just some words we speak to impress others? He knows your heart and your motives. What do you think He sees in your heart?

Where is Jesus asking you to go in your life? Are there some things that need to be changed? Are there relationships to be fixed? Are there responsibilities you need to step up to and bring to completion?

Someone addressed Jesus and declared he wanted to follow Him. Jesus reminds him that he has nowhere to stay or even to lay down His head. His was a life of moving about; talking to people; sharing the Good News about the kingdom of God and man’s opportunity to live eternally in the kingdom. He was offering us redemption from our sin and a right standing with God our Heavenly Father. He would not promise them a comfortable place to stay if they chose to follow Him.

I know of people who are afraid to commit to Christ because they are afraid of what He will require of them. Where do you stand on this subject? What we all need to know is that wherever we are called to go with Jesus will be much more than we have ever imagined. If He is calling us to go; He has great blessing for us if we really want to follow.

The second group Jesus addresses has some stuff they feel they need to do before they join Him on His journey. Excuses abound when we are not sure of the future. The basic problem we need to overcome are our fears and self imposed responsibilities. If we let fear hinder our growth and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior we will miss a lot of blessings and opportunities in our lives. He is waiting for us to make a decision. So what will it be?

We live in farm country and I love it here. Wanda and I grew up on farms and we appreciate all that goes into farming and producing crops for the benefit of man as well as ourselves.

When I was a young man I remember breaking ground in the spring for several farmers I worked for. I know that the first row we made needed to be straight so the rest of the rows had a pattern to follow. I had to look ahead and focus on a fencepost or some landmark to get that row straight. If I looked back

that row would be bent, twisted, and a mess. I guess what Jesus was saying is that we need to focus on Him and follow Him so that our lives will be in order and straight.

So What Shall We Do? 2018 gives us a New Year and a new opportunity. We can chose to follow Jesus and obey Him or we can be distracted by this life and make our excuses. I want to encourage you to make the decision to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Give Him first place in your life and trust He will lead you along the path you were designed for. Let's all become more faithful and trustworthy for the Lord in this New Year of our lives.

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