

Divine Strategies (Part 3) “Die to Live”

ADDITIONAL NOTES

(Matthew 8:18-22)

¹⁸ And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. ¹⁹ Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “**Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.**”²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

V 18 Multitudes were attracted to Jesus

V 19 A certain scribe was willing to go wherever Jesus went

V 20 To follow Jesus is to abandon all your rights, will, desires, ambitions, comforts, relationships – ALL

V 21 A disciple wanted to follow Jesus but had a request

- This disciple sensed the call of God.
- He called Jesus Lord but failed to make Jesus Lord of his life by allowing other concerns to take priority
- He wanted to obey at his convenience

V 22 Jesus demanded immediate loyalty

People came to Jesus for what they could get

(John 6:26)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the /loaves and were filled.”

Reasons why the multitudes accept Jesus

- Some follow Christ they see lives are changed for good, people are helped, ministry is carried on for the public good, and good works abound.
 - They agree with what is being done and they are willing to be identified with such a movement.
- Some follow Christ and belong to a church because of the image and social standing it brings.
 - Church membership is listed and even expected by some employers when hiring personnel.
 - Belonging to a church helps to show a well-rounded and moral person.
 - Some just want the image that profession of faith conveys.
- Some follow Christ and His church because of family and friends.
 - They are urged to belong to a church
 - They profess and attend – some regularly
- Some follow Christ because of conscience.
 - Their consciences would bother them if they did not profess Him and attend church at least occasionally.
 - They profess and attend only enough to feel comfortable and to keep their consciences subdued.
- Some follow Christ because they have seen God’s evident power to change lives and deliver through terrible trials.
 - Thus they know that Christ and His church might be able to help them when trouble comes.

Many are committed but their commitments are self-commitments. It is not enough.

(Matthew 10:38-39)

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”.

(Luke 18:18-30)

¹⁸ Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹ So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God.

²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘*Do not commit adultery,*’ ‘*Do not murder,*’ ‘*Do not steal,*’ ‘*Do not bear false witness,*’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ”

²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

²² So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

²³ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

²⁴ And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁷ But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

²⁸ Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.”

²⁹ So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”