



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Sacrificial Followers

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem and makes it very clear the price followers will pay to follow Him.

*“As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 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.” And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” 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.” Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:57-62 NASB, Mt 8:18-22)*

**Following Christ.** God knows the circumstances and motivations of all people. Following Christ will require sacrifice and denial of self. The message in this passage is not so much about salvation but rather Lordship. The question that Christ asks the three people in different ways is; are you ready to give up all to follow me? Sacrifice on earth and hardships for His sake are to be required of a follower.

**Expect hardship.** Conditions of discipleship are costly. *“And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Lk 9:23)* Rejecting self and totally accepting Christ is a trait of a follower. Christ must be first in every situation.

**Trusting Christ for provisions.** The first follower was a scribe (Mt 9:19) and said he would follow Jesus wherever He went. The second wanted to bury his father first, before totally following Jesus (his father was not likely dead but rather to collect his inheritance to have the money to follow Jesus). The third wanted to follow 'but' first wanted to say goodbye or explain to those at home before totally following Jesus. They were all saying I want to follow 'but' they needed to do something else first. Jesus declared that to be a follower of His they must be prepared to place Him first above all and to be prepared to sacrifice all for Him. All wanted Jesus to be their Savior but not totally their Lord.

**Relationships broken.** Jesus understood that many times followers want the best of both worlds. They want all the relationships and friends that they currently have and also be a follower of Christ. Jesus said that following Him could cause broken relationships with family and those closest to them. Followers must be willing to focus solely on the future and eternal and not worrying about the past. *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:13-14)* As Jesus was focused toward His fate in Jerusalem, His followers are to be totally focused on Him as their Savior and Lord.

### For Your Consideration:

- Is Jesus your Savior and Lord? Or do you want a Savior and not a Lord?
- Is there anything you need to do before you totally follow Jesus? Are you willing to risk all to be a total follower?
- Is anything or one a higher priority in your life than Jesus?

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44