

Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**

⁵⁹ And he said unto another, **Follow me.** But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

⁶⁰ Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.**

⁶¹ And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

⁶² And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

THE 'ME FIRST' MENTALITY

As Jesus went about
His earthly ministry,
people either
wanted to follow Him,
or were invited by Him.
But, there were yet
some people
who desired to do it
on their own terms-

seeking to mold
His teachings
to fit their own agendas
and their own lifestyles.

They wanted the blessings
without the commitment,
They wanted the miracles
without the message.
Yet, Jesus
consistently called
for a wholehearted surrender,
a complete transformation
of heart and mind.

He reminded them
that true discipleship
requires denying oneself,
taking up the cross,
and following Him fully.

In our own lives,
we too must examine
whether we are truly
following Jesus
or merely trying to fit Him
into our own plans.

Look at what
this man
in verse 59 said
"Lord, let **me first** go

and bury my father."
This man had
the me first mentality.

Look at what the man
in verse 61 said
"Lord, I will follow you,
but let **me first** go
and bid them farewell
to those
who are at my house."

This particular man
had the me first mentality
as well.

These two men
had the opportunity
to follow Jesus,
but they wanted to wait
until it was convenient
to them.

They wanted
to follow Jesus,
but they said
let **me first**
take care of myself
before committing.

However, this is not
how things work.
Jesus calls us

to a higher standard.

He asks us
to put Him first,
above all else.

When we say “me first,”
we are prioritizing
our own desires
and comforts
over the call of Christ.

**Jesus said in Matthew 6:33,
“But seek first
the kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things
shall be added to you.”**

This means
that when we put God first,
everything else
will fall into place.

**The call to follow Jesus
is urgent and immediate.**

It requires us
to step out in faith,
trusting that God
will take care
of our needs.

**In Luke 9:62, Jesus said,
“No one
who puts a hand**

**to the plow
and looks back
is fit for service
in the kingdom of God.”**

This means
that once we decide
to follow Jesus,
we must not
look back or hesitate.
We must move forward
with determination
and commitment.

But, isn't this how
most people think
when it comes
to looking out
for themselves?
How about when
their eternity
is on the line?

It's good and all,
but right now
I'm just a bit too busy, Lord.
Let me take care of me,
and then Lord,
I'll do what you
need me to do.

You see Lord,
right now

I can't give up my time.
You see Lord,
right now
I can't give up my energy.
You see Lord,
right now
I can't give up my resources.
You see Lord,
right now
I can't give up my money.

Can I tell you friends
that we need
to face the fact
that we are selfish people.
We love the comfort,
we love the control,
and we love the diversion
from stress and busyness.

But let me tell you
that God calls
His people to love,
and that love
means sometimes placing
others' needs
in front of our own.
God doesn't call us
to have the "me first" mentality.

Jesus Himself
set the ultimate example

of this love.

**In John 13:34-35,
He says, "A new command
I give you:
Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love
one another.
By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you love one another."**

His sacrificial love
on the cross
is the greatest demonstration
of putting others
before oneself.
When we embrace
this selfless love,
we reflect God's heart
to the world.

It is through
our actions and attitudes
that we can be
a light in the darkness,
showing others
the transformative power
of God's love.

We should strive
to love as He loves,

putting aside
our own desires
and seeking to serve
and uplift
those around us.

Can I tell you friends
that when we have
that type of mentality,
we are letting our pride
lead us down
the wrong road.

When we put ourselves
and our own interests
before God,
and we give God
the leftovers,
can I tell you this morning
that we are in trouble.

This "**me first**" mentality
in today's world,
like the two men
I just mentioned,
is and was
fundamentally opposed
to Jesus' concept
of following Him.

In **Luke 9:23,**
Jesus said to them all,
"If any man

**will come after me,
let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily,
and follow me.”**

He demanded
that we "deny ourselves"
to follow Him -

This wasn't a request.
This wasn't a question.
We need to do
the will of God,
instead of doing
the will of “me.”

Psalms 143:10 says

**“Teach me
to do thy will;
for thou art my God:
thy spirit is good;
lead me into
the land of uprightness.”**

He required that one
"hate...his own life also"

Luke 14:26 says

**“If any man
come to me,
and hate not his father,
and mother, and wife,
and children, and brethren,
and sisters, yea,
and his own life also,**

He cannot be my disciple.

Jesus was teaching
His disciples
that there is a cost
to following Him.
In order to follow Jesus,
we must be willing
to give up everything.
Following Jesus
requires commitment
and faithfulness,
even if our parents
choose not to follow the Lord.

If we are faced
with the painful choice
of our loyalty
to our family
versus our loyalty to Jesus,
we must choose Jesus.

We have to prioritize
our relationship
with Jesus
over our relationship
with our family.
Jesus has to be
first and foremost
in our lives.

Living in a culture,

in a day and time
that praises
putting self first
and "looking out for #1",
it is easy for Christians
to take on this
"me first" mentality.

So, right now
I want us to consider
some ways
we can be guilty
of having
the "me first" mentality:

HOW ABOUT IN OUR ATTENDANCE?

The Bible
reveals the example
and value
of assembling together
with other Christians—
**Acts 2:42 says "they continued
steadfastly in the apostles'
doctrine and fellowship,
and in breaking
of bread,
and in prayers."**

**Chapter 20:7 says "And upon
the first day
of the week,**

when the disciples
came together
to break bread,
Paul preached unto them,
ready to depart
on the morrow;

And Hebrews 10:25
“Not forsaking the assembling
of ourselves together,
as the manner of some is;”

But there are
many people
who will often
put personal interests
before opportunities
to attend church:

They prefer
their recreational outings.
They prefer
their family gatherings.
They prefer
their work
or school related activities.
They prefer
staying home
to read or watch TV.
And when
bad weather hits,
they will do

whatever it takes
to make it to work,
but they
won't give a second thought
about missing church.

**Casual attendance
at church
is a sign
of the "me first" mentality.**

HOW ABOUT IN OUR CONTRIBUTION?

Christians are instructed
to give of their prosperity
to meet certain needs–
1 Corinthians 16:1-2 says
**“Now concerning the collection
for the saints,
as I have given order
to the churches
of Galatia,
even so do ye.
Upon the first day
of the week
let every one of you
lay by him in store,
as God hath prospered him.**

We also read
in **2 Corinthians 9:7-9**
**“⁷ Every man
according as he purposeth**

in his heart,
so let him give;
not grudgingly,
or of necessity:
for God loveth
a cheerful giver.

Yet many church-goers
will only give sparingly,
if they even give
at all.

They do this because:
They would rather
spend as much as possible
on things for themselves.
Some only give sparingly
or not at all
because they failed
to properly budget
their contribution
to the Lord.

Some only give sparingly
or not at all
because they are burdened
with bills
on top of bills
for things
that are not necessities,
but are actually luxuries.

People often try

to live beyond
their means.
They buy things
they can't afford
with money
they don't have.

When crunch-time comes,
you can rest assured
the first thing
ejected from their budget
is the Lord's contribution.
Negligent giving
of our prosperity
is a sign
of the "me first" mentality.

HOW ABOUT IN OUR SERVICE TO ONE ANOTHER?

God has blessed
each of us with gifts
to serve one another—
Romans 12:6–8 says
⁶ Having then gifts
differing according to
the grace
that is given to us,
whether prophecy,
let us prophesy
according to the proportion
of faith;⁷
Or ministry,

let us wait
on our ministering:
or he that teacheth,
on teaching;⁸
Or he that exhorteth,
on exhortation:
he that giveth,
let him do it
with simplicity;
he that ruleth,
with diligence;
he that showeth mercy,
with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10-11 says
“As every man
hath received the gift,
even so minister
the same
one to another, as good stewards
of the manifold
grace of God.

You see,
we should be
in service
to one another.
Yet many people
make little effort
to do their part
in the work
of the local congregation:

Some people
don't even learn
the names
of the other members.
They don't take
the time
to get to know one another.

Some people
don't seek
to find their "gift"
or ability
God has given them.

Men don't attend
the business meetings;
women don't teach classes
(I'm not necessarily talking
about our church,
but churches in general.)

Some people
go to church
to get
and not to give
of themselves.
And can I tell you friends
that it's also possible
for a **church** to practice
the "me-first" mentality.

This type of church
can't help those
beyond their walls,
even though
they may be quite capable
of doing so.

It's Because
they first
have to remodel the building.
they first
have to replace the carpet.
They first
have to buy new lights.
They first
have to resurface the parking lot.
They first
have to reseed the lawn;
and the list keeps going.

There is always
a "project"
to be completed.
They have an agenda
with which they intend
to stick to—
no matter how desperate
the needs
of others may be.

It is called
the "Me-First mentality."

No missionary
needs to ask
for an appointment,
because there is a sign
on the door that says
“The Church
of the Me-First Mentality
Meets Here.”

A struggling congregation
shouldn't expect help
from the “Me-First” group,
and the reason
is too obvious to state.
Lack of involvement
in the local church
is a sign
of the "me first" mentality.

HOW ABOUT IN OUR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS?

Christians have duties
to members
of their physical families–
Colossians 3:18–21 says
“¹⁸Wives, submit yourselves
unto your own husbands,
as it is fit
in the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives,
and be not bitter against them.
Children, obey your parents

in all things:
for this is well pleasing
unto the Lord.
Fathers, provoke not your children
to anger,
lest they be discouraged.

Ephesians 5:22 and 25
“(22) Wives, submit yourselves
unto your own husbands,
as unto the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ
also loved the church,
and gave himself for it;

Many families suffer
when people seek
their own interests
above another.

When husbands and wives
are selfish
in their dealings
with each other
(when one person
is only worried
about their choices,
their feelings,
and their careers.)

When parents divorce

without regard
to the impact
on their children-
does one parent
speak negatively
about the other?
does one parent
say more
than they should?
Does one parent
ask the child
to choose a parent
or take sides?

How about
When children
fail to honor
and obey their parents?
Honoring the parents
is a command from God.

Proverbs 13:1 says
“A wise son
heareth his father's instruction:
but a scorner
heareth not rebuke.”

Dysfunctional families abound
where the "me first" mentality exists.

Our service
to the Lord,
His church

and our families
is greatly hindered
by the "me first" mentality,
and is detrimental
to our souls
and those around us.

How much better is it
for us to learn and practice
The “others first” principle
As exemplified by Christ?

He came to this earth
because He put
others first–

2 Corinthians 8:9

**“For ye know
the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
that, though he was rich,
yet for your sakes
he became poor,
that ye through his poverty
might be rich.”**

Matthew 20:28

**“Even as the Son of man
came not
to be ministered unto,
but to minister,
and to give his life
a ransom for many.”**

We are called upon
to put on
the same mind or attitude-

Philippians 2:3-5

**“³Let nothing be done
through strife or vainglory;
but in lowliness of mind
let each esteem other
better than themselves.**

**⁴Look not every man
on his own things,
but every man
also on the things of others.**

**⁵Let this mind
be in you,
which was also
in Christ Jesus:”**

The Bible teaches us
to do nothing
through selfish ambition
or conceit.

It teaches us
to esteem others
better than ourselves.

It teaches us
to look out
for the interests of others.
Jesus exemplified
the principle of "others first"

that He desires
in us as well.

Matthew 20:28 says
“Even as the Son of man
came not
to be ministered unto,
but to minister,
and to give his life
a ransom for many.”

In this verse,
Jesus sets the ultimate example
of putting others
before Himself.
This is evident
throughout His life
and ministry.

Jesus, being divine,
chose to humble Himself
and take on human form.
This act of leaving
the glory of heaven
to live among us
is a profound example
of selflessness.

Jesus consistently
served others.
He washed
His disciples' feet,
Which was a task

typically reserved
for the lowest servant,
demonstrating humility
and the importance
of serving one another.

Jesus showed deep compassion
for the marginalized,
the sick, and the sinners.
He healed the sick,
He fed the hungry,
and He forgave sins,
always putting
the needs of others
before His own.

And The ultimate example
of Jesus putting others
before Himself
is His sacrificial death
on the cross.
He willingly
laid down His life
to atone for our sins,
offering us
the gift of salvation.

Even now,
Jesus continues
to put others
before Himself
by interceding for us

at the right hand
of the Father.

Jesus' life
is a powerful model
of selflessness and love.
By following His example,
we can learn
to put others
before ourselves
and live a life
that reflects
His love and grace.

As we reflect
on the dangers
of a me-first mentality,
let us remember
the words of Jesus
in **Matthew 19:30,**
**“But many who are first
will be last,
and many who are last
will be first.”**

This powerful reminder
calls us
to live a life of humility,
service, and selflessness.

In a world
that often encourages us
to put ourselves first,

we are called to a higher standard.
We are called
to follow the example
of Jesus,
who came
not to be served,
but to serve,
and to give His life
as a ransom for many.

Let us strive
to put others
before ourselves,
to seek the well-being
of our neighbors,
and to trust
in God's provision
and timing.
When we do this,
we not only honor God,
but we also find
true fulfillment and joy.

Closing

Do we have
the "me first" mentality...?
If we do,
we cannot be Jesus' disciples
If we do,
the church
and our own spiritual lives

will suffer.

Do we want to be rid
of the "me first" mentality...?
The "me first" mentality
will be destroyed
when we adopt
the "others first" principle.

The "others first" principle
will be developed
as we make
"the kingdom of God first" -
Matthew 6:33

**“But seek ye first
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness;
and all these things
shall be added unto you.”**

If I put God first,
won't He give me
the strength I need?
If I put God first,
won't He give me
the rest when I need it?
If I put God first,
I shouldn't listen
to that voice
on the other shoulder
that says
to "give myself rest,"

but rather I should wait
on the Lord
to give me
what I need
in His timing, not mine;
in His will, not mine.

God wants us
to live our life
for other people,
not for ourselves.
God wants us
to do what is right
for other people,
not for ourselves.

Significantly,
he does not want us
to live our life
for ourselves
if it hurts someone else
in doing so.
Lack of doing for others
when we can
is wrong enough
without adding hurt
onto the same.

When we truly put
the kingdom of God
and others before ourselves,
then the Lord

will see to it
that we have the things
that we need.

True greatness
in Jesus' terms
comes from how far down
someone is willing
and able to stoop,
not from how high
they're able to climb
to promote themselves
above others.