

Sovereign Grace Church
“To Follow or Not to Follow” outline
January 20, 2019

Matthew 8: 18-22

We have all made commitments of one form or another. Some of us have made commitments to get married, to have children, to take a job, to move to another location....or perhaps to take our kids to Adventureland! But we also know what it is like to have those commitments disrupted....usually by things we deem more important than keeping the commitment. We get a better job offer at the last minute or find out something about our potential spouse the day before the wedding that is a real “deal-breaker”....like their already having a spouse! Everyday commitments, like promising to get the groceries on the way home from work get disrupted all the time.....and usually for what we deem adequate reasons.

So why does Jesus have such a hard time with those who commit to following Him?! We can't even take a day off to attend our mother's funeral?! Or to put a down-payment on a really nice house?! It seems that once we decide to follow Jesus there simply ARE no vacations! This seems a bit unreasonable. But is it? Let's take a look....

1. Are Jesus' statements matters of law or what?

- Law

- Wisdom

- The Point

2. Discipleship and the Necessities of Life. vv. 19-20

- “I will follow you wherever you go.”
Matt 25: 2-3

- Vagabonds for Jesus!?
Matt 6: 25-33

3. Discipleship and other Commitments vv. 21-22; Lk 9: 61-62

- **Commitment Qualifiers**
Lk 14: 26

- **“Follow Me and let the dead bury their own dead.”**
Matt 15: 4-6

Closing Thought: Lk 9: 23-24

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

- 1. Have you made any commitments or promises recently? Have you made any that you had to break? Why? Can one make a case for a hierarchy of commitments? Why is there often such a struggle over a man's commitment to his job and his commitment to his family? Is there a need for a commitment which transcends these commitments in order to sort them out?**
- 2. How do you think the two men who asked if they might follow Jesus thought of this commitment to Jesus? What do you think they thought they were committing themselves to? If they had understood the nature of the commitment to which they were committing themselves do you think they might have had a change of heart? Do you?!**
- 3. What is the difference between law and wisdom? Why is it important to make this decision? If we treat Jesus' response as law....what follows?**
- 4. Do you think it is easy to really choose to give up control of your life and give the reins over to Christ? Is this choice ever fully engaged in this life? What two things are necessary for us to even begin to die to ourselves and live unto God?**