

Are You Fit for the Kingdom?

Mark 10:28

Charlie Brackett

Jesus had impressed upon the twelve how difficult it would be for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. When he heard it, Peter was prompted to say, "See, we have left all and followed You."

Peter may have been bragging, but what he said was true. He was a business man, he and his brother Andrew. They were commercial fishermen, as were James and John. They left their businesses and their families and followed the Lord. Matthew was a tax collector, a lucrative occupation in that day. He left it. They had indeed left all to wander around the countryside with the One who said, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Luke 9:58

You know, I can't read this statement of Peter's and reflect on the apostles' sacrifices without taking stock of the ways I have left this world to follow Jesus. Such an inventory pales against their sacrifices. I live in a comfortable house. I have a regular income. My children and grandchildren are in other states, but we still have frequent contact and make arrangements to see each other regularly. All of us were together on the Thanksgiving holiday, and have seen each other on other occasions since. When I take stock, I can't conclude that I've left a lot for the Lord.

Please don't get me wrong. God does not insist that all of us give up our families and businesses and wander over the countryside preaching the gospel. Many early Christians had families and businesses. Families and businesses are, in many ways, the very means by which we are enabled to spread the gospel. But there is a lesson here that we should get. We have seen it before in our study of Mark. It is a lesson that is plain and often painful. It is a lesson in sacrifice. It might be stated this way: Anything that gets in your way of doing the Lord's bidding must be put aside and given up. Whether family, or business, or wealth, or close friends. Whatever! Jesus Christ and His cause must come first in your life. Does He? Is His cause uppermost in your life? If not, the unvarnished truth is: you are not fit to be His disciple.