

**THE BIG IDEA: Finding Jesus is one thing. Following Jesus is another.**The Take-Off

Before we read today's passage and jump into the teaching, I need to remind you that going ALL IN isn't a one time thing.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if it was?

But it isn't. And we all know it from other areas of our lives besides our faith.

The wedding was a one time event. The marriage multiple decisions after that moment to stay all in.

Starting a business is an event. Staying in business happens daily beyond the grand opening.

Setting a goal and posting it on social media is an event (and likely to get you a lot of comments and likes!). Meeting that goal is a million decisions to stick with it after the initial buzz is gone.

You get the idea.

Going ALL IN on prayer, humility and family isn't about saying it as much as doing it, and that's going to be very clear in the section of scripture we look at today.

We're going to meet a rich ruler who asks a question that leads to a question that he wasn't prepared for, and he's going to learn that **finding Jesus is one thing but following Jesus is another.**

Let's read **Luke 18:18-30** and then talk through a couple of things that we can learn about the cost of following Jesus.

**1. The difference between finding and following is the difference between hearing and doing**

- a. Sometimes we get caught up in all the things we've done, don't we?
- b. That's where the ruler was and so he asked Jesus a question that he was pretty sure he knew the answer to
- c. Jesus responded as only He can - He applied pressure to the one thing keeping this man from going all in
- d. Remember: when we go all in there is always the temptation to go back out
- e. This man found Jesus - and many are content to do only that
- f. But Jesus wants followers, not finders, and so He pushed back on this man
- g. Picture this man: feeling good about his answer, his life and then - BOOM - Jesus exposed him in verse 22
- h. [VASECTOMIES and BUMBLE BEES]
- i. **Hebrews 4:12-13** / the Word cuts us and EXPOSES us
- j. **The difference between finding and following is the difference between hearing and doing**
- k. **James 1:22** / Don't merely listen to the word - DO what it says!
- l. If we're going to follow Jesus, then our response to His Word is everything

**2. The payback is greater than the payout**

- a. It would be nice if that response was always easy, but it isn't.
- b. Like we said at the beginning, saying we're all in and staying all in are 2 different things!
- c. It's not that difficult to find Jesus, but following Him? Holy smokes, that can be tough!
- d. Many of you haven't been at The Gathering since the beginning, but I can tell you that there have been some "are we staying ALL IN?" moments over the past 6 years or so!
  - Being given a 6 pack as an offering
  - Breaking up a fight on the sidewalk before preaching
  - Baptizing people in a small water trough - the dude that stripped down to his boxers
  - The man who wanted to join the worship team - DURING WORSHIP!
  - Being cussed out after church - more than once!
- e. It's easy to get like Peter (v. 28) and try to convince Jesus (or ourselves) that we've given all to follow Him
- f. What we need to remember is that nothing we've sacrificed has gone unnoticed by God
  - **Luke 12:7** / He knows the hairs on our heads
  - **Psalm 56:8** / He keeps track of our sorrows so much that He collects our tears
- g. What is the promise for those who are all in on following Jesus?
- h. **Verses 29-30** / **The payback is greater than the payout**

**3. We can because He has and He will**

- a. I know what you might be thinking: Peter said he was all in and later denied Jesus
- b. Maybe you weren't thinking that, but let's wrap this up talking about why we can follow Jesus w/o fear

- c. **We can because He has and He will**
- d. Yes, following Jesus requires moving with Him, obeying His word
- e. Yes, Peter later denied Jesus and appeared to step back out after going all in
- f. But never forget that Jesus restored Peter!
- g. **Philippians 1:6** / GOD finishes what He began in us
- h. **1 Thess. 5:24** / The One who called you is faithful and HE will do it
- i. In investing, past performance doesn't guarantee future results, but with God it does!
- j. I love Isaiah **43:16-19**
- k. They remembered what God had done, but that wasn't what they needed now (made a way in the water, but now they're in a desert)
- l. So He does something new - He makes a way no matter where we find ourselves

### The Landing

God took me to Dallas to show me that

[A DELAYED FLIGHT and ONE IMPRESSED FREQUENT FLIER]

If you and I go all in on following Jesus, I can't guarantee that we'll never face troubles or obstacles, but I can guarantee that we'll always be following a God who makes paths where there seem to be none, and whose past faithfulness IS a guarantee of future faithfulness.

Let's pray.