

# ARE YOU FIT FOR THE KINGDOM?

Lk 9:57-62

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. It takes a certain kind of person to be fit (well placed; suited or useful) for the kingdom (the church Matt 16:17-19)
- B. By "certain kind or person", I make no reference to nationality, color of skin, richness or poorness, physical strength or weakness, but instead to character
- C. Not just anybody is fit (suited or useful) for the kingdom of God because it takes a certain kind of commitment to serve God acceptably
- D. Verse 62 of text in detail. Note implications of "NO MAN" (not even one person this includes both male and female)

## DISCUSSION:

### I. HAVING PUT HIS HAND TO THE PLOW

- A. A proverbial expression signifying to undertake any business or project
- B. Here it has a spiritual or religious meaning
  - 1. Obeying the gospel Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 10:9,10; Gal 3:26,27
  - 2. Starting the Christian life (new life) 2Cor 5:17
- C. No man is fit for the Kingdom until he humbles himself in obedience to the gospel and is made free from sin 2Thess 1:7-9
- D. Anyone and everyone can do this, because Jesus invites ALL to come to Him Matt 11:28-30

### II. LOOKING BACK

- A. This shows that one can start and then turn back to the former way of life
- B. Literal application: to plow a straight furrow the farmer must not look back but ahead to the end
- C. Spiritual application: If the Christian is to remain faithful (fit for the kingdom) he must look to Jesus his leader, the "author and finisher" of our faith Heb 12:2
- D. Some areas in which we might be tempted to look back
  - 1. Worldly pleasures
    - a. Will be a poor man Prov 21:17
    - b. Be damned 2Thess 2:12
    - c. Only for a season Heb 11:25
    - d. Shall proceed no farther 2Tim 3:4,9
  - 2. Worldly riches

- a. Fall into temptations, (love of root of all evil) 1Tim 6:9,10
  - b. Called a fool Lk 12:20,21
  - c. Hard to enter the kingdom Mk 10:25
  - d. Should lay up treasure in heaven Matt 6:19,20
3. Worldly cares
- a. Better to hear Christ Lk 10:38-42
  - b. Care more for Christ than family Lk 9:59-61
  - c. Be not overcharged with cares Lk 21:34
  - d. Seek first the kingdom Matt 6:33
- E. Love not the world 1Jhn 2:15,16

### III. IS FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- A. No man/woman who has obeyed the gospel and looks back to the worldly things is fit (well suited or useful) for the kingdom and in most cases is a disgrace and a hindrance to it (the church)
- B. Christ gave Himself for the church and desires that it remain pure and perfect Eph 5:25-27
- C. At the judgment the unfaithful church members will be cast out 1Cor 6:9,10; Matt 13:41,42
  - 1. Those not "fit (suited) for the kingdom" will not be allowed into heaven
  - 2. The church will be pure when presented back to God Eph 5:27; 1Cor 15:24-28

## CONCLUSION: (TITLE)

- A. The totally committed person never offers excuses, neither does he allow others to interfere with his privileges, duties and responsibilities as a child of God
- B. Once the person who is truly committed puts his hands to the plow he never looks back
  - 1. Have you put your hands to the plow?
  - 2. Have you begun to look back after having put your hands to the plow?