



Unemployed in the Spirit July 17, 2017

LUKE 9:23 NKJV – (23) Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

To be unemployed (SPIRITUALLY) is a person not currently in use. People who do *not* seek work and choose not to seek work? WHY? Yet some will quickly become available to receive benefits.

Christian discipleship is a vital subject in the New Testament, and the book of Luke is a rich source of information about it. In chapter 9, verse **23-24**, the call to discipleship is given and explained, (and also in **Matthew 16:24-25** and **Mark 8:34-35**). Beginning in verse **37**, several serious problems that true disciples of Jesus Christ experience are discussed. These problems are ones often observed today among some of the most dedicated servants of Christ.

The city of Jerusalem, as well as the final journey, is a focal point in the content of the third gospel. Five challenges the disciples experienced in following Jesus are explored in the book of Luke as they begin the journey with Him. These five challenges include unbelief, pride, sectarianism, wrong spirit and shallow commitment. Today, I want to address "**Shallow commitment.**"

Are we who seek to follow our Lord and Savior deeply committed on our journey? Throughout time, Disciples have experienced these same problems, yet have been loath to speak on them. Below are five principals to help you become a better disciple:

- **Separate** from those things that hinder you from being focused.
- Be **studious** about everything of God.
- **Stand** only on the principals from above.
- **Submit** to that authority placed before you.
- Be **structured** about the ways of God.

Many of us have paid our children's tuition for college. You have picked up the tab for them to get a higher education. In light of the high cost and expense of college and beyond, it is the concern of most parents that their money not be wasted. Many parents have told their children "I didn't send you to college to party. I didn't send you to college to get pregnant. I didn't send you to college to get on drugs. I didn't send you to college to hang out with the wrong people. That's not why I sent you there. I sent you there to learn. I sent you there to study. I sent you there to maximize this opportunity for the reward that a possible education could bring you". If not these words, most can agree that something similar has been imparted to every college student as they begin their college journey.

With the high costs of education, it is not surprising that a parent would be upset if their child were not following through on their responsibilities to study, attend class, get good grades, etc. The price is too high for them to play around with the gift of the education you paid for.

Likewise, God picked up a high tab for our salvation. Do not waste it! Be about your "**Fathers business!**"

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 11:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus is an investment that never loses!