



CHRIST'S CHURCH
OF THE CANYON

Mid-Week Devotion
February 21, 2021

"I'm no prophet..."

I'm no prophet that's for sure but one of the side-effects of this past year that's COVID related will be Christians who once faithfully attended church and may even have served their church in some capacity will no longer attend or serve once the churches re-open. Why? Several reasons I believe. Christians are out of the routine of "going-to-church." It's easier to just stay home and watch TV. No commitment involved. Also, it's easier to ZOOM meetings, sermons, whatever all in the COVID-less comfort of our homes. COVID, really fear of COVID has had its effect on the church and my concern is a lasting effect. To be a follower of Christ requires commitment to Him. All out commitment. One of my hopes at the beginning of the "lock down" was that people not just Christians would re-align their priorities. You know, spend more time at home with family and friends. Reach out and show Christ's love to those in the neighborhood who need help. What an incredible opportunity to turn a difficult situation into one that honors God. Sadly, from my vantage point I don't think much of that re-aligning of priorities has happened. Sure, there's pockets of people re-focusing off of "me" and onto others but very small pockets. Families continue to be "dis-functional" (Google the stats). Church attendance in all forms has dropped dramatically. Why? Luke 9:57-62 reads,

As they were going on the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at my home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

It's about commitment. Not to ourselves. Not to our jobs. Not to our families. Not to our future. And certainly not to our health. Our commitment is to Jesus. John White in his book, "The cost of commitment" writes,

"The way of the cross is a magnificent obsession with a heavenly pearl, beside which everything else in life has no value." Following Christ, says John White, is not cheap. The cost is substantial. There will be suffering and loss. But the



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benefits, rewards and joys that come with our commitment to him are well worth the sacrifices that must be made to answer the call to Christ. Consider the cost. Then take up your cross. And follow Jesus in the only life worth living.

See, its an issue of priorities and commitment. We've had the last year to set them aright. But, not so. God help us when the next COVID comes along and it will. Sorry, I said I wasn't a prophet.

Pr. Wayne

[We're in John 10:22-38 this weekend]