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. **(TITLE)** For our lesson notice verse 62 of our text in detail
E. Discuss the 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???