

Follow Jesus by Being All In

Pastor Mark Lehmann October 19, 2025

What Happens When We are not All In for Jesus?

Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23 NIV

The Half-Hearted Follower

As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

Luke 9:57-58 NLT

The First Obstacle of Following Jesus is Comfort and Convenience

"Jesus is the only significance. Beside Jesus nothing has significance. He alone matters".

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Delayed Disciple

He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

Luke 9:59-60 NLT

The Second Obstacle That Has to be Overcome is Procrastination and Priorities

The Divided Heart

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

Luke 9:61-62 NLT

The Third Obstacle is Looking Back

"Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Mark 10:20-22 NLT

The Fourth Obstacle is Material Things

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21 NIV

God Has Given Us a Call to be All In

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Roman 12:1-2 NLT

- My heart is fully His no divided loyalty
- My time is surrendered to His purpose
- My words reflect the life of Jesus
- My actions line up with His calling

There is Great Power and Promise When We Go All In for Jesus

Peter — From Failure to Faith

Mary of Bethany — Extravagant Worship

"It's not a waste when I pour out all of my oil unto You. It's not a waste when I give up all the rights of my life. It's not a waste.

Heaven breaks in and fills the room, when I surrender all to You. It's not a waste, You're worth it all. The atmosphere is changing now as I release and pour it out.

It's not a waste, You're worth it all".

Lyrics from "It's Not a Waste" Written by Daniela Barroso

The Early Church — Was All In Together for Jesus

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 NLT

When a community of believers goes all in—God moves powerfully

Paul — All In for the Mission of Being All In for Jesus

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Acts 20:24 NLT

The Impact of an All-In Life for Jesus

- Our homes are changed into places where faith becomes real, not routine
- Our workplaces and schools become mission fields
- Our church becomes a place of His power and presence, and we truly change the world together

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot

