

Study #20

Mark Beale

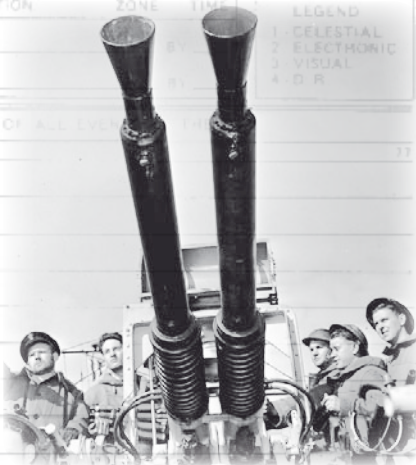
NOW IS THE TIME

“Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

WARM UP

Twelve reasons why a pastor stopped attending athletics events:

Every time I went they asked me for money. The people I sat next to didn't seem friendly. The seats were too hard. The coach never came to call on me. The referee made a decision with which I could not agree. There were hypocrites who were only interested in what others were wearing. Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home. The band played some numbers I didn't know. The games are on when I want to do other things. My parents took me to too many games when I was young. I read the sports page and that is enough. I don't want my children to be prejudiced by athletics.



BACKGROUND

No one can ever say that he was induced to follow Jesus under false pretences. In Scripture Jesus makes it very clear that there is a cost to pay if a man wants to be his disciple. It takes courage and it takes an immediate response. Jesus pays us a compliment by pitching his demand so high.

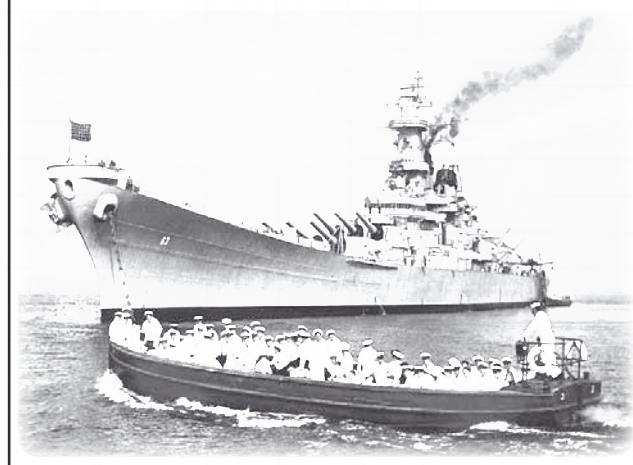
READ Luke 9:57-62

QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

1. As Christian men we are called to make a difference in the world around us. Share with the other men in your group as to how being a Christian man makes you different.
2. Share with the men in your group some of the tensions you face at work as you try to put Christ first in your life.

3. Jesus tells us to not look back. Share about when you have been tempted to look back.

4. Share about times you have made excuses not to attend worship and how you have overcome this.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will examine my commitment to God.
I will seek the Lord to show me the changes I need to make in lifestyle so that I can be fully a man of God.

CONSIDER THIS

“If you don't go to God's house, why should He go to yours?”



WRAP UP

The two things that get in the way of a man fully following God are:

1. Concern with self, especially one's own comfort.
2. A too narrow group loyalty, rather than looking at the big picture of the kingdom.