Total Commitment

Intro: Those who follow Christ must deny self; Mat. 16:24-25 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” Partial commitment will not suffice even if it is $99\tfrac{99}{100}%$. In this lesson let us look at some facts about being totally committed to Christ.

I. HOW SOME ARE COMMITTED.

A. Half-heartedly
   1. Lot’s wife:
      a. When leaving the destruction, looked back.
      b. Luke 17:32 “Remember Lot’s wife”
   2. When they are reluctant in service.
   3. When cares of this world overcome them; Luke 8:14 “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection”

B. Some to their own little hobby or doctrine
   1. All goes well as long as they are promoting it.
   2. When their hobby or doctrine ends or fails, they stop.

C. Verbally
   1. They talk a good fight but never really act.
   2. Talk is easy and cheap.
   3. Mat. 15:7-8 “Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying ‘This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me”

D. To traditions
   1. Mark 7:7-9 “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”
   2. Traditions are not necessarily wrong, but some are more committed to their tradition than to Christ and His Word.

E. To preachers (or elders)
   1. Mat. 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”
   2. We should never follow men; if they fall, we then fall.

F. Some are committed at their convenience.
   1. These are committed to Christ when they can; but if they cannot, then other things take priority.
   2. From these you hear, “Wait till later.”

G. Financially
   1. These are individuals who think they can give their way to heaven.
2. Mat. 6:19-21 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. 21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

II. TO WHOM OR WHAT IS OUR COMMITMENT
A. It is to a Person—Jesus Christ
   1. He is our Savior:
      a. Mat. 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”
      b. John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”
   2. He loves us:
      a. Eph. 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”
      b. Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
   3. He died for us:
      a. Mat. 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
      b. 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
   4. He is our Lord:
      a. Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
      b. Acts 10:36 “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

B. Our Commitment is to be total.
   1. It is not to be a cheap, nominal, half-hearted attempt.
   2. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
   3. It is no longer “I” who lives; Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

C. How some try to follow Jesus.
   1. On their own conditions; Luke 9:57-62 “And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 58And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. 59And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. 61And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. 62And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
   2. By making excuses; Luke 14:16-24 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that
were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18And they all with one consent began to
make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs
go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19And another said, I have bought five yoke of
oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20And another said, I have
married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21So that servant came, and shewed his lord
these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly
into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and
the halt, and the blind. 22And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded,
and yet there is room. 23And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and
hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24For I say unto you,
That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.”

D. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your
bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2And be
not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may
prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

III. WHAT TOTAL COMMITMENT WILL DO
A. Puts Jesus in charge of your life.
   1. He is Lord of your life as noted previously.
   2. The decisions we make are based on what He would do.
B. Puts the kingdom as first priority.
   1. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these
      things shall be added unto you.”
   2. Mat. 13:44-46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the
      which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he
      hath, and buyeth that field. 45Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man,
      seeking goodly pearls: 46Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold
      all that he had, and bought it.”
C. Shows up in our daily life.
   1. We will have a Christ-like attitude in all we do, say, and in our
      associations.
   2. It will make us a better husband, wife, parent, child, employer or
      employee, etc.
D. Will assure spiritual growth; 2 Pet. 1:5-7 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add
to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 5And to knowledge temperance; and to
temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 6And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to
brotherly kindness charity.”
E. Brings joy, peace, purpose of life, etc., to our life.
   1. Most have just enough commitment to make them miserable.
   2. Phi. 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 5Let your moderation be
      known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by
      prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
      7And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds
      through Christ Jesus.”
F. Assures us a crown of life
   1. 2 Pet. 1:8-11 “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall
      neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9But he that
lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 

10Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 

11For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”

2. 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 

8Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

3. Rev. 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

IV. THE STEPS TO TOTAL COMMITMENT

A. Deny Self

1. Mat. 16:24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

2. Paul’s example: Phi. 3:7-8 “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

3. This will include dying to self and sin

a. Gal. 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

b. Mat. 18:8-9 “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”

B. Follow Christ and His teachings.

1. Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

2. Mat. 11:29 “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

3. 1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Conclusion: Are you really totally committed to Christ and His Will? If not, you need to remove anything which stands in your way so you will be able to hear those blessed words to enter into heaven’s home.