

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
p.m.

Sermon Title: The Problem of Thinking with Your Feelings  
Sermon Text: (Luke 9:57-62)

Man thinks differently than the Lord . . .

- different values
- different philosophies
- different principles
- the chasm between the Lord and between men is never seen so clearly, than in the contrasts of the way that they think.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:18-20 – “Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. <sup>20</sup> And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.”

Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord said in Isaiah 55:7&8 – “For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. <sup>9</sup> For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The fact is that the way that man thinks and the way that God thinks, is an eternity apart.

The problem is, that that is the problem! – The Bible teaches us that it is not acceptable to the Lord, nor is it beneficial to man, to have a different way of thinking than the Lord has.

Romans 8:6-7 – the Apostle Paul said, “For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God.”

All of that being said, “man’s thinking” never shines the darkest, than when someone begins giving good reasons to not be obedient to the Lord.

When people begin explaining, reasoning, and justifying themselves, assuming that the Lord is going to see it the way they see it, and somehow say to them, “Okay, that’s fine, I understand.”

- There is one thing that under no condition, or circumstance that the Lord will ever accept . . . and that is an explanation for living our own way, and doing our own thing.

In this passage there are three philosophies that the Lord will not accept!

- Whatever your thought processes, when these feelings govern your thinking, the Lord does not accept that way of thinking, and no man will ever be able to use them as an explanation, or justification for the way that they respond to the Lord.

- In this passage this evening, Man’s way of reasoning meets the Lord’s way of thinking, and in it the contrast could not be any more clear.

Now the title of the message is the Problem of Thinking with our Feelings, and we meet three men who let their feeling do their thinking, and their culture do their living, and they are soundly and in one case sharply rebuked by the Lord Jesus.

## Three principles the Lord flatly rejects:

### I. That Casual Faith is Sufficient

\*Note – Here are two things about Casual Faith every believer needs to believe.

Two gentlemen picture for us two different exchanges with Jesus; that teach us a bit about “casual faith.”

Note Gentleman #1

#### *A. It is Presumptuous in it's Thinking*

1.) vs 57 – “Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.”

\*Note – What a wonderful idea? – As long as it comes from Jesus. – There were occasions in Christ’s ministry when the Lord instructed men to stay home. There were occasions in Christ’s ministry where He sent men in particular directions.

Notice some things right off the bat that are going to get this man in trouble. He essentially had three primary problems:

- a.) He didn’t wait on the Lord’s word
- b.) He informed the Lord of his own will
- c.) He never gave second thought to what he was saying – (verse 58)

\*Note – Casual faith speaks before it hears; it directs rather than discerns.

- You never direct what you are going to do for the Lord! You don’t decide what it is that needs to be done, He does.

a.) Lord we’ve preached in your name, we’ve taught in your name . . . we’ve served you the way we think you need to be served. – Remember that? – Matthew 7:33

If you’re serving the Lord the way you think He needs to be served, you’re signing checks that don’t belong to you. When you serve like you want to serve, its not the Lord that you’re serving . . . it is you.

- Doesn’t the Lord accept people who volunteer? – NO – He accepts people who surrender.

- You never sign up to be the Lord’s partner, you surrender to be the Lord’s prisoner.

#### *B. It is Powerless in its Living.*

1.) Casual faith sounds precious, but proves useless. – It FEELS, before it THINKS.

\*Note – It makes commitments based on feelings, rather than surrendering based upon knowledge.

a.) verse 58 – “**Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head.**”

- Christ was on the way to the cross, his ministry was winding down.

- he was not as popular as he had been.

2.) According to this same account in Matthew 8:19-22, this man is a Scribe. The scribe generally had a fairly well-to-do life and lifestyle.

- This gentle rebuke of the Lord was to say to him, You are promising what you’re not willing to do!

- the force behind your promise doesn't have the power to choose my commands over your desires.

Jesus flatly rejects any idea that Casual Faith is Sufficient enough to satisfy the Lord!

Gentleman #2

(Different than Gentleman number one)

*#1 Impulsively volunteered, Jesus essentially said Stay home.*

#2 Jesus called, and he said, Sure thing, Lord, as long as it fits into my timing.

In those days, the care of a deceased parent, was the highest priority, and the highest standard for any and every Jew.

- Back then, most people were buried twice.

- when someone would die, the adult children would care for their deceased, and place them in a tomb. – A year later, they would come back, gather up the bones, place them in an ossuary, and move them to another location.

- Most likely, this man is saying, “as soon as my year is up, Lord . . . I'll be right there.

Principle #2 – That Jesus flatly rejects:

II. That Cultural Norms are Superior

\*note – There are two things here that move to the top of the list, and trump every cultural expectation, or authority:

- Cultural Norms are NOT Superior

**A. To the Lord's Call – “Follow me”**

1.) Let me say this: - When the Lord commanded this man to “Follow him”, the

Lord knew every single responsibility and duty that he had, and NONE of them mattered to Jesus.

a.) Follow Me means:

(1.) I know your father needs buried, but that does not over rule the Ruler.

(2.) Follow me mean: Now!

(3.) Follow me means: I know the culture will think bad of you, follow me anyway.

\*Note – Who is your LORD – Christ or the Culture?

- They are not Superior:

**B. To the Lord's Correction “Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.”**

1.) This man had a specific calling from the Lord. – He said, “go and preach the kingdom of God.”

\*Note - The Lord's course for every person is different, but is just as divine.

2.) After this man made his plea, Jesus said, “Let the spiritually dead, bury the physically dead.”

a.) Jesus said essentially to this disciple, the only thing you need to worry about, is what I tell you to do.

\*Note – Preacher, this all sounds very cold, and militaristic! Friend, He is Gentle Jesus yes, and He is the Graceful Savior, yes – But He is also the COMING KING.

- You cannot have the ability of Jesus, without getting the authority of Jesus, and His Commands are as Divine as His Care.

Gentleman #3

(Like Gentleman #1 is a Volunteer

- Only, He's had time to think. He's had time to listen. So His offer is an offer that is willing to pay the price. He is willing to suffer reproach and rebuke.

- Only this one, says, "Let me go and put my family behind me." – Let me give them closure.

- Surely Lord, you can understand . . . and I'll go with you."

Principle #3 That Jesus flatly rejects is:

### III. That Emotional Ties Reign Supreme

\*Note – This is the notion that Family ties, Emotional Ties, are to put the Lord on hold!

That Emotional Reasons are:

#### A. As Reasonable Reasons

1.) "Let me first bid them farewell which are at home at my house."

a.) Let me give them closure

b.) Let me let them know

\*Note – Jesus essentially said, "Who are you answering to? Them or me?"

- When the Lord handles you, He handles them!

- When the Lord instructs and calls and commands He does it knowing every emotional tie affected in your life.

(Now don't get the idea that every person is called to forsake their family . . . because they are not.

- The Bible also teaches to "honor father and mother"

- The Bible teaches family love and family care

\*Note – But Jesus is saying here that Family is not the Highest Obligation in life, Jesus is.

The Same Lord that said to "Honor Father and Mother" is the same Lord that also said, "If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and

brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.<sup>27</sup> And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26-27

To borrow from Henry Nouwen who wrote so candidly in his diary,

- "I love Jesus, but want to hold on to my own friends even when they do not lead me closer to Jesus. I love Jesus, but want to hold on to my own independence even when it brings me no real freedom. I love Jesus, but do not want to lose the respect of my professional colleagues even though their respect does not make me grow spiritually. I love Jesus, but do not want to give up my writing, travel, and speaking plans even when they are often more to my glory than God's."

#### B. For Fitting Followers

1.) Verse 62 – "No man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

a.) 'Fit for the kingdom of God' is a phrase that means "fit for use"

\*Note – In other words, This kind of thinking, renders one useless in the Kingdom work of God.

\*Note – Not one of those principles will be accepted by the Lord as justification for anything less than total surrender.

Conclusion: - What do we do? Philippians 2:5-8 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup> And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

- The reason Christ taught, was so Christ could correct. So that we could conform our way of thinking to His. – In each one of these rebukes, the Lord did not CONDEMN them, the Lord CORRECTED them.

- the question is, are you willing to be corrected!

