

February 10, 2008

Message: "Our Fear of Commitment"

Scripture: Mark 8:34-38

Introduction

- Right commitments can be great joy, fulfilling and dynamic.
- Commitments give us purpose in life.
- The Bible teaches us that what we commit to is going to be the most important thing in life.
- Let's look at what the Bible has to say about our fear of commitment and how to make the right commitments.

I. The importance of making right commitments.

- Three reasons why you and I need to make commitments:
 1. Our commitments reveal our values. (Matthew 6:24)
 2. Our commitments shape our character. (Proverbs 4:23)
 3. Our commitments will determine our destiny. (Mark 8:36-38)

II. Why do we fear making commitments?

- Four common barriers:
 1. A past hurt
 2. Self-doubt (James 1:8)
 3. The desire for independence
 4. Perfectionism (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

III. How to overcome the fear of commitment.

- Three things:
 1. Ask God for wisdom to make the right commitments. (James 1:5)
 2. Compare the benefits with the cost of this action.
 - The benefits of trusting Jesus: forgiveness of sin, peace through His Spirit, Guidance, Power, Place in Heaven, Satisfaction, etc.
 - This commitment will cost you: follow Jesus everyday.
 3. Trust God to help me keep my commitments.
 - Psalm 37:5, Philippians 2:13, II Timothy 1:12

Conclusion

- What are you afraid to commit to? (II Chronicles 16:9)
- What is it you are committed to ? What's the pay off?
- *If you have Jesus, you have it all!*