

Wednesday

What Does It Profit a Man?

Today's Scripture Luke 9:1-62

Why are we here? What is the purpose of life? Where are we going? These questions have always haunted the thoughtful, introspective person. As more people today ignore them and live for the moment, the words of Jesus call a lost world to think on them: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" (Luke 9: 23-25)

Luke 9 provides a glimpse at how His contemporaries responded to Jesus and His profound words on the meaning of life:

*The twelve apostles devoted themselves to Jesus' mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God (9:1-6).

*Herod was perplexed by Jesus, thinking He was John the Baptist raised from the dead (9:7-9).

*The five thousand were searching for the bread of life, but were satisfied with physical bread (9:10-17).

*Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ of God (9:18-20).

*Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transfigured, an experience that would steel them to face the suffering yet in the future (9:28-36).

*A boy with an unclean spirit was healed by God's power (9:37-43).

*The disciples let pride and ego take over their agenda (9:46-50).

*Samaritan rejection fueled the desire for retribution, but the way to Jesus is forgiveness (9:51-56).

*Those whose commitment to Jesus is shallow or halfhearted will not last (9:57-62).

It is easy to fill our lives with trivial pursuits. But the wise man or woman remembers that even if we gain the whole world, if we lose our eternal soul, it is all for nothing. "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (9:62).

Today, I will...live my life remembering that eternity looms before me.