

PLOW YOUR FIELD

Rev. Christopher R. J. Smith

Lesson: Luke 9:57-62

Since you started school this year, have you thought about last summer? Did you think about the good times you had? Perhaps you have said, "I wish I could go back to last summer," or, "I wish it would hurry up and be summer again." If you have said something like that, you could be telling the Lord that you don't want to follow Him.

There was once a man who told the Lord, "I will follow You wherever You go" (Luke 9:57). But did he really mean it? When you say that you'll follow the Lord, that you will do whatever He asks you to do, being a loving and helpful person, do you really mean what you say?

The Lord says, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). What is the Lord telling us in these words?

Imagine that you are working on a farm somewhere. You have been asked to get up very early in the morning and start to plow the field. And you have said yes, you will do it.

Then imagine you are plowing away. You are steering two oxen pulling a wooden plow, like they did when the Lord was still on earth. You like the way the plow turns over the soil in neat rows.

Imagine now that it is still early in the morning. The plowing isn't much fun anymore. Insects are bothering you, and you are cold and hungry. So you look back at the farmhouse and think how nice it would be to go and have something to eat and to get back into your warm bed.

Perhaps you decide to stop working, because you don't feel like it anymore, and you go back to bed. What then happens? You have let down the person who was counting on you to get the plowing done. And you have also let down the people who need the food that is meant to be grown in that plowed field.

If you wanted to act like this, the Lord would say that you were not fit for heaven.

Even if you just thought about it and didn't actually return to the farmhouse, while looking back and not watching where you were going, the plow could have been broken. By being careless, the plow has been going crooked and

perhaps hits a rock and breaks. Again, it is your fault that the field does not get plowed so that the seed can be planted.

The person who looks back while his hand is on the plow is just thinking about himself. He really doesn't want to be helpful, or to get on with the job in front of him, and that is why he is not fit for heaven. "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

In the kingdom of God, angels don't look back, wishing that they were some place else. They wouldn't wish it were last summer again. Angels think about what they are doing right now and they are always looking ahead. They are always thinking about what they can do next.

The Lord asks us to take each day as a new day, a day made by Him, and to rejoice and be glad in it.

Doing a little each day, get on with the things that need to be done at home and school. Don't put it off. Enjoy doing a good job. And look forward to what you can do tomorrow, so that you use and build up the talents the Lord has given us all. Then we will really mean it when we tell the Lord that we will follow Him wherever He leads us.