

# What Does God Expect

Luke 9:23

Introduction: Our God is the Creator of the Universe...and the Judge of all things. He has shown his love for each of us through the sacrifice of His beloved Son. What is our response to this amazing love?

## I. Will God Accept Half-Hearted Commitment?

A. The Parable of the Soils

Luke 8: hard soil, thorns, shallow, good

B. What Does Half-Hearted Christianity Look Like?

C. Some Biblical Examples

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field

Philippians 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

D. We Need to Count the Cost

Luke 9:57-62 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 14:31-33 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple

## II. Are You Serving Left-Overs to God?

What Does God Do With Leftovers?

Malachi 1:7, 10 You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.' Won't anyone just shut the doors?

Revelation 3:15-18 (Laodicea) I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not

know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see

### The Issue of Our Wealth and Comfort

Luke 18:22-24 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!

Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham

Hosea 13:6 When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me

### Are We Asking "How Little Can I Do"?

Luke 14:34-35 Salt *is* good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

1 Jn 2:3-4 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

### The Power of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 4-8 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

**2** And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body [a]to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

**4** Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not [b]puffed up; **5** does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, [c]thinks no evil; **6** does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**8** Love never fails.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead