

How to Live A Successful Christian Life – Luke 9:51-62

We all strive and desire to live a successful life. However, some of us never make the decisions that will create the opportunity to live a Christian life. And truly, a life without Christ can never be successful in the long run. Eternity will be the final judge of success. I believe that we have the ability and the knowledge to be successful as God counts success, and we only need to apply what we know to our lives and we will be successful. In Luke 9, Jesus gives us three things that we need to consider in order to be a success.

1. Count the cost – vs. 53 – Jesus was set on going to Jerusalem and He knew that His mission was in Jerusalem. He knew that His calling was to go to Jerusalem. And when He did not do what others thought He should, they rejected Him. The same thing happens to us. When God calls us, others are always trying to tell us why that can't be God's call on our lives. They tell us we either can't do something, or why we shouldn't do that thing. Often we find that our lives are more difficult the moment we decide to obey God and do His will. We will find ourselves in the middle of difficult situations just by doing what God has called us to do. That is normal for God. He wants to use us and show His strength, grace and mercy through us. He can't if we are not willing to count the cost and do what He says. Not only do we need to count the cost of doing God's will, but also count the cost of not doing God's will. Not obeying God is disobeying God, and you and I do not want to get into that. God will have His way in your life sooner or later. He will cause you to be miserable until you decide to obey. If God calls you and lays a burden on your heart, you obey.
2. Don't delay, just obey – vs. 59-61 – So often we hear the call of God and we think about all the things we need to do first. Jesus tells us here that there is nothing more important than following Christ. Not home, not family, not church, not work, nothing should stand between you and God's call on your life. He even tells the first man, *"let the dead bury the dead"*. That may seem cold at first, but it is so true. If we do not obey immediately, we will always find things that will distract us from what we know we should do. Your mother always told you, *"don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today"*. That is sound advice. We get caught up in things that we cannot change and let the things we can change go. Let us always strive to get our priorities in order.
3. Don't look back – vs. 62 – This is a great piece of advice. Now unless you have done any plowing or mowing of a large tract of land, you may not understand this principle. But once you begin to plow, you never look backwards. Your row will become instantly crooked. You cannot plow a straight line if you are looking backward. Remember the story of Lot and his wife? [*Gen. 19:17-26*](#) God said He would destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and told Lot and his family to leave. God also instructed them not to look back. Why? Was God trying to be mean? No. God knew that each time we look back at our old way of life, we find it that much more difficult to leave it behind us. Each time we take that step back into our old life style, we become a little more tolerant of that which keeps us from our closeness with God and we are a little more accepting of sin.

When the pain of life becomes greater than the pain of change, you will change your life.