

**Speaker:** Pastor Buster Brown

**Today's Message:** FURTHER INTO THE LIGHT

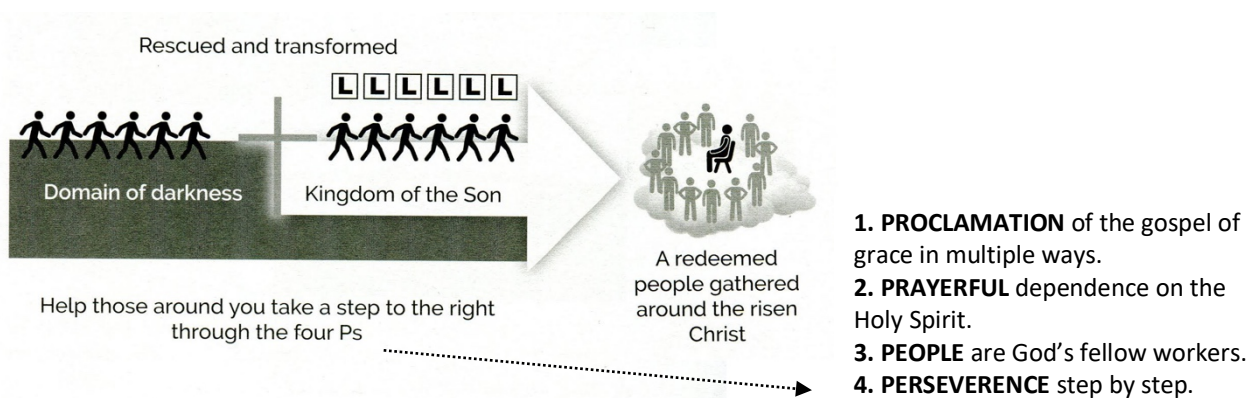
**Today's Text:** Matthew 8:18-22

*"Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. <sup>19</sup> And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."*

**Matthew 8:18-22**

*"Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house." **Matthew 12:29***

We participate in the conquest of the forces of evil when we go forward in faith in obedience to Jesus Christ. As we do so, we continuously take a step further into the light of the reality of Christ.



**SEEKER/DISCIPLE #1: verses 18-20**

1. In following Christ there will be joy, purpose and hope, as well as h\_\_\_\_\_ and s\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Biblical appeal to denial/hardship is always the door to f\_\_\_\_\_ and l\_\_\_\_\_.

**THE APPEAL TO DESIRE...**

*"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
<sup>11</sup> For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.  
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.  
<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!" **Psalm 84:10-12***

*“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.”* **I Peter 2:2-3**

*“It is to be feared that the most of us know not how much of glory may be in present grace, nor how much of heaven may be attained in holiness on the earth. This pursued in a due manner is continually transforming the soul into the likeness of God. Much of the glory of heaven may dwell in a simple cottage and poor persons, even under rags, may be very like unto God.”*

**John Owen, The Collective Works of John Owen, Vol. 2., pg. 583**

3. We are not home yet. (I Peter 2:11, Phil 3:20)

### **SEEKER/DISCIPLE #2: verses 21-22**

1. “Not now.” (Smoke screen approach.)
2. Following Christ concerns u\_\_\_\_\_ |\_\_\_\_\_.

*“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”* **Matthew 10:37-39**

**ANSWER KEY:** hardship, sacrifice, flourishing, life, ultimate, loyalty

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the Biblical appeal to joy, purpose and fulfillment (or the appeal to desire)?
2. Why does the command to self-denial (Luke 9:23) open the door to true “shalom” or flourishing?
3. What does the following statement mean: “There is joy in the journey, and at the journey’s end.”?
4. How can legitimate concerns (i.e. commitment to family, job, etc.) often cloud our relationship with the Lord?