Unfit for the Kingdom of God

Introduction:
A. Most of us have some concerns about fitness.
   1. Physical and mental fitness.
   2. Athletic and military fitness.
   3. Academic and employment fitness.
   4. Marital and parental fitness.
B. But, are we as concerned with our fitness for the kingdom of God. (v. 62)
   1. Not everyone interested in the kingdom is fit.
   2. Not everyone thinking himself in the kingdom is fit.
C. Our text describes three characters unfit for the kingdom of God.

Discussion:
I. The Eager Beaver (v. 57)
A. We are not told why he was so eager to follow Jesus.
   1. Maybe the many miracles.
   2. Maybe the popularity of the moment (v. 37)
   3. Maybe, as a scribe, a political view of the Messiah.
B. Jesus dampened his enthusiasm with a “reality check.”
   1. Discipleship brings hardship (2 Tim. 2:3-7; 3:12)
   2. Jesus wanted this understood up front (cf. Lk. 14:25-33)
C. There is more to discipleship than just “getting baptized.” (Matt. 28:18-20)
   1. Notice the sentence structure of verses 19, 20.
   2. Cannot have crown without cross or salvation with sacrifice.

II. The Me Firster (vv. 59-61).
A. There was nothing wrong per se with what either man wanted to do.
   1. It was their “me first” attitude.
   2. Could not do both at the same time – had to make a choice.
B. How many of us are “me first” in our approach to discipleship.
   1. When it comes to obeying the gospel.
   2. When it comes to church attendance.
   3. When it comes to daily service.
   4. Some of my things may have to left off or done later.

III. The Back Looker (v. 62).
A. Jesus requires undivided attention and loyalty in his kingdom
B. We cannot do the Lord’s work while looking back.
   1. “Remember Lot’s wife” (Lk. 17:13)
   2. We must be totally committed and focused on work ahead.
C. There are many things to distract us.
   1. Looking to what we left behind – a family or a life style.
   2. Losing sight of our real goal – heaven (cf. 2 Cor. 4:18)
D. Both churches and individuals have to watch this.

Conclusion:
A. How fit are you for the kingdom of God?
B. How focused are you on doing the God’s will and going to heaven?
C. Are you like the Dutchman greasing the boss’ wagon?