

In His Steps Ephesians Part 35

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church.”

Ephesians 5: 31-32

“For this reason a man will leave...I am talking about Christ and the church.” Jesus left the heavenly realms to fulfill his Father’s will. He separated himself from the existence he was familiar with in order to accomplish what his Father sent him to do. The author of Hebrews quotes Jesus as saying, “Here I am- it is written about me in the scroll- I have come to do your will, O God.” Hebrews 10:7

Jesus could not accomplish God’s will in heaven; he had to come to earth. If you read the rest of the passage in Hebrews it states that the Father sent the Son to be a perfect sacrifice. “By that will we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.” Don’t you just love him? Jesus came to earth not to be happy, to find acceptance, to make friends or to get famous. He came to die for the Father so that we could live. That was his greatest joy. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb 12:2).

“To this you were called, because He suffered for you leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). In the same way, we are to leave if we are going to fulfill the Father’s will. And it is the responsibility of every believer to fulfill the Father’s will. “Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven” (Matthew 7:21). In order for us to fulfill the Father’s will, we must leave. Jesus left heaven; we must leave earth. We read it in Ephesians before, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (2:6). Paul says in Colossians 3:1-3 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

This is the message and this is the mystery of the Gospel. In order for you and I to be truly filled with joy we need to endure the cross. Paul said, “I die daily.” To die to the world and live for Christ is what it means to be a Christian. Let’s not water down the greatest message ever spoken. There is a powerful resurrection that occurs for every follower who lays down his or her life. Oh how easy it is for the worldly cravings to enter our mentality. Where do you need to die today? What do you need to leave?