



## Today's Message

Date: October 4, 2020  
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas  
Title: *A Fool's Bargain*

Text: Luke 9:23–27 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Introduction: Those who live for self rather than following Jesus make a fool's bargain. Jim Elliot, missionary martyred in Central Ecuador, made a famous journal entry that captured the point Jesus taught in this text:

**Today's take-home truth: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”**

**I. Those who follow Jesus submit their desires to his purposes. 22, cf. Mark 8:32-33**

A. Jesus does not serve our desires . . .

B. because our desires do not serve God's purposes.

**II. Those who follow Jesus no longer live for themselves.  
23-25**

A. Living for yourself is at odds with what Christ requires. 23

1. He requires self-denial.

2. He requires self-sacrifice.

B. Living for yourself brings unintended consequences. 24

C. Living for yourself is a fool's bargain. 25

**III. Those who follow Jesus will see him in the kingdom.  
26-27**

A. Eternal life does not belong to those who despise the cross of Jesus. 26

B. But all who embrace the cross of Jesus will see him in glory. 27