

THE LEAVING PRINCIPLE

There are many examples in the Bible of those God called to leave all behind to follow him. Here are a few examples. We start with the father of our faith...Abraham (Romans 4:16).

Abraham: Genesis 12: 1-5

Elisha: 1 Kings 19:19-21 Kills oxen..burns plowing equipment to follow Elijah
(later he receives a double portion of God's Spirit)

Israelites: Some wanted to go back to Egypt did not enter the promised land
Numbers 10:29-30; 14:1-4, 27-29; 16:17,31-32 people grumble..earth rumbles

Jesus' disciples: Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9

Mark 1:16-20

Luke 5:1-11 after most successful fishing day

John 21:3 Peter returns to boat (temporarily)

Apostle Paul: 1 Corinthians 9, 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 - Paul put himself last in comfort and privilege in order to advance the kingdom message. Philippians 3:7-11

Jesus: No one left more or sacrificed more than Jesus Christ. - Philippians 2:1-11

A call and promise: Mark 10:23-30

- * Leave home (comfort zone)
- * Leave family (those you love)
- * Leave fields (income and security)
- * For sake of Jesus and the gospel
- * Rewards in this life and the next

'If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.'

C.T. Studd missionary to China, India, who left behind a promising career as an athlete in England

'A man may go to Heaven, without health, without riches, without honors, without learning, without friends, but he can never go there without Christ. C.T. Studd (1860-1931)

'One does not surrender a life in an instant. That which is lifelong can only be surrendered in a lifetime.' Elizabeth Elliot

'Take up your cross daily and follow me.' Jesus