

A man with short dark hair, seen from the side, looking forward. He is wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic that includes the word 'CALIFORNIA' and stars, and a black backpack. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a field, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a strong backlight effect on the man's hair and shoulders.

**Don't
Look
Back**

Neal Parker

Discipleship of Jesus Christ

■ Luke 9:57-62

- A person to be unfit for the kingdom of God, even though he puts his hand to the plow. What does He mean by that? .

■ Considerations

- If the father was died, the man would have already have been occupied with the burial.
- Apparently, the man wanted to wait for his father's death, which could have been years away.
- Spiritually inactive could bury the physically dead; Spiritually activated should be about the work required for the Kingdom of God.

Putting the Hand to the Plow

■ Luke 9:62

- Any man who puts his hand to the plow.../ Calling
- “putting the hand to the plow...” / Serve God

Some people seem to have the understanding that becoming a Christian is simply a matter of having a certain religion that you embrace and that you use to comfort your heart.



Putting the Hand to the Plow

■ **Luke 17:5-10**

- We ought to do the things that the Lord has commanded us. This is illustrated by the picture of a servant plowing or tending sheep.

■ **I Corinthians 3:1-9**

- Paul compares the establishment of a church to the planting of grains and the watering of the field. We are all God's workers who are farming in His field. This is the point of putting the hand to the plow.

Do the Work

■ I Kings 19:19-21

- Our job is simply to guide the plow. Likewise, in serving God, we don't use our own strength. It is God who provides the power. It is God who 'gives the increase.' Our responsibility is to guide the plow in the right direction.

■ Luke 17:28-33

- Genesis 19:26
- Remember Lot's wife. Her disobedient hesitation was Jesus proverbial methaphor.

Do the Work

■ Matthew 13:36-43

- What does the plow do? It causes the ground to turn over.
- Acts 17:6 *These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.*
- If you sow the seed without first plowing the field, nothing will grow because the soil is too hard. The seed cannot penetrate it.
- In the same way, the kind of life that we live in being committed to Christ is what makes a mark upon the world. A verbal profession of faith alone does not leave any mark upon anybody.

Soldier, Athlete & Farmer



Soldier, Athlete & Farmer

■ II Timothy 2:1-7

– The Dedication of a Soldier

- Longsuffering
- Focused
- Devoted



Soldier, Athlete & Farmer

■ II Timothy 2:1-7

– The Discipline of an Athlete

- Obedient
- Self-Controlled



Soldier, Athlete & Farmer

■ II Timothy 2:1-7

– The Diligence of a Farmer

- Hardworking
- Motivated



Total Commitment

■ Hebrews 3:7-19

- Jesus used the term **'Looking back.'** In the Greek text, this verb is a present participle which **expresses a continuous action.** 'If any man puts his hand to the plow and keeps looking back, this person is not fit for the kingdom.' It is not just an occasional glance at the back. He is constantly looking back.
- **There is no reason to look back if there is nothing that attracts your heart.** By God's grace, the Israelites came out of Egypt after many years of slavery. But where was their heart after the exodus? Back in Egypt.

Not Fit / Not Suitable

■ Luke 9:62

- The word 'fit' (*euthetos*) refers to being 'suitable' or 'usable.'
- It is found in only two other places in the NT: (1) in **Luke 14:35**, it is used of salt that has lost its flavor; (2) and in **Hebrews 6:7**, it is used of herbs that are useful. In both cases, they are found in the context of God's judgment.



Fit / Suitable for the Kingdom of God

■ II Thessalonians 1:1-5

- Being fit for the kingdom is equivalent to being worthy of the kingdom.

■ Matthew 18:21-35

- Parable of Unforgiving Servant's conduct proved he was unfit for the Kingdom of God.



Standards

Disciples of Jesus Christ

■ What Kind of Person Is Fit For The Kingdom of God?

- It is the disciple who is totally committed.**
- Does not discuss the question of looking back.**
- He puts his hand to the plow, never to look back to the way life was before he came to follow Jesus.**
- He says, like Paul, 'I press forward toward the mark of my high calling in Jesus Christ.'**
Philippians 3:14