

“Let The Dead Bury Their Own Dead” – Matthew 8:22

Matthew 8:21-22 [New King James] *“Then another of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’”*

The context of this statement reveals that Jesus Christ was giving this man a special opportunity to participate in His ministry and to teach others the way of life that ultimately leads to our being given the gift of eternal life.

John 6:44 [New King James] *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Not everyone is given the chance to be a disciple of Jesus Christ at this time.

Romans 8:6-8 [New King James] *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

The normal human mind lives a life that is spiritually dead, [Ephesians 2:1].

When this man said that he must first go and bury his father, Jesus Christ told him to let the “*spiritually*” dead bury their dead, [logic tells us that physically dead cannot bury other dead people.]

Was Jesus Christ denying this man an opportunity to attend his father’s funeral?

Obviously **not** for a funeral only takes a few hours and Jesus Christ continually gave example after example showing how His disciples are to have compassion and show proper respect for others.

Jesus Christ was even present at funerals during His ministry, where He raised the dead back to life, [John 11:17-44; Luke 7:11-16].

Why, then, did Jesus Christ answer this man in such a manner?

Jesus Christ realised what the man had said was nothing more than an excuse.

The young man’s father was, most probably, an elderly man still alive but about to die.

This man, realising his father’s condition, told Jesus Christ, in effect, that he did **not** want to get involved in God’s Work until after his father was dead and buried.

This told Jesus Christ that this man placed undue emphasis on family ties and other mundane, worldly matters pertaining to physical life. He could have found someone else in his family to fulfil his responsibility towards his father if he wanted to.

Luke 14:25-26 [New King James] *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.’”*

The Greek word translated “hate” is “*misêō*” meaning to love less by comparison.

Matthew 6:31-33 [New King James] *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your*

heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

The lesson we are to learn is shown in the statement of Jesus Christ. No-one should allow themselves to be hindered by physical circumstances [cares of the world], from having a part in God’s Work once they have been called by God the Father.

[Please download and study the article on this website ‘*Finding Our Place In The Christian Church, The Body Of Christ,*’ listed under ‘*Christian Living*’].