

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...”

Hebrews 12:2

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

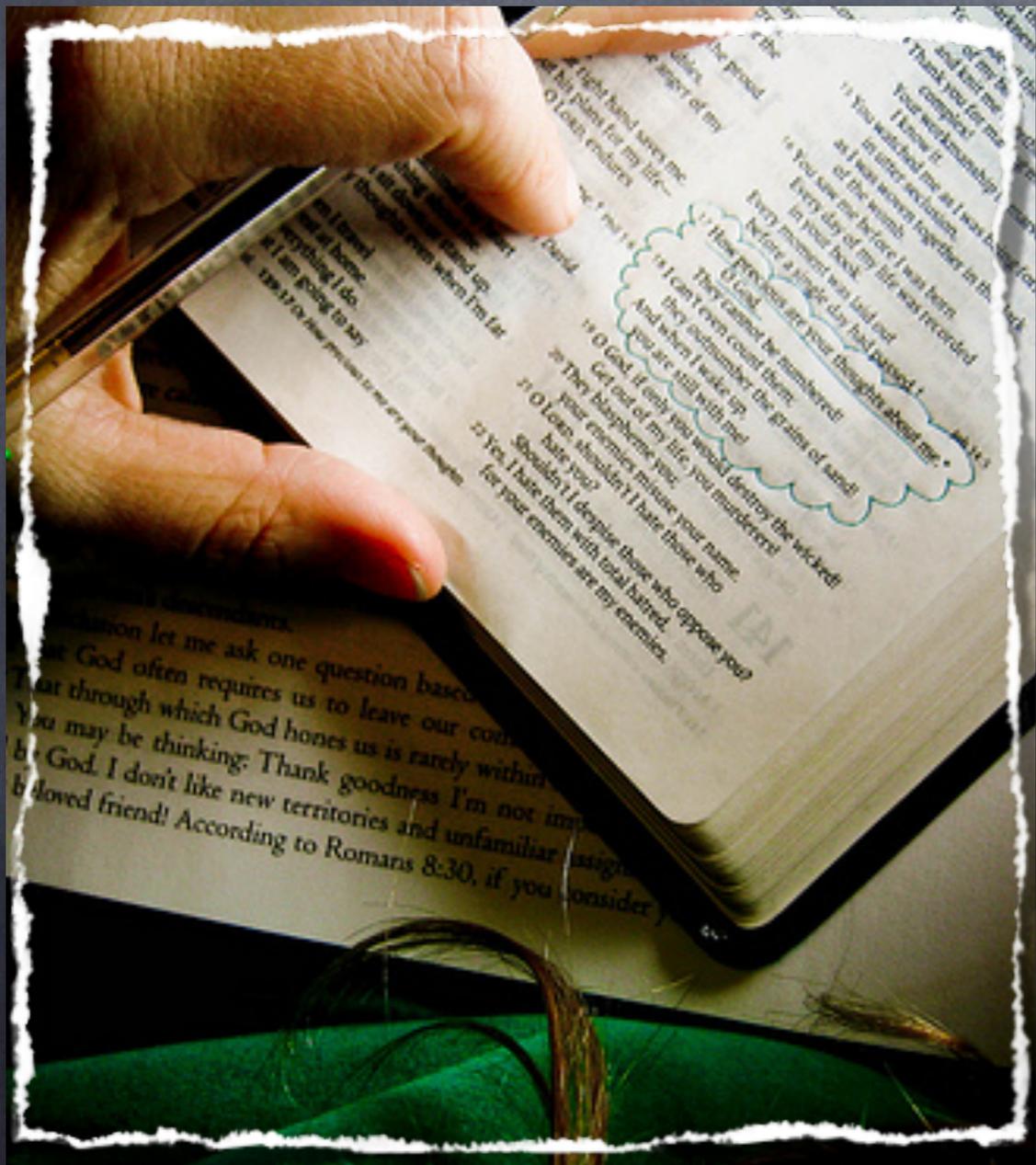
Power of an Example



Romans 15:4 (NKJV)
4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Power of an Example

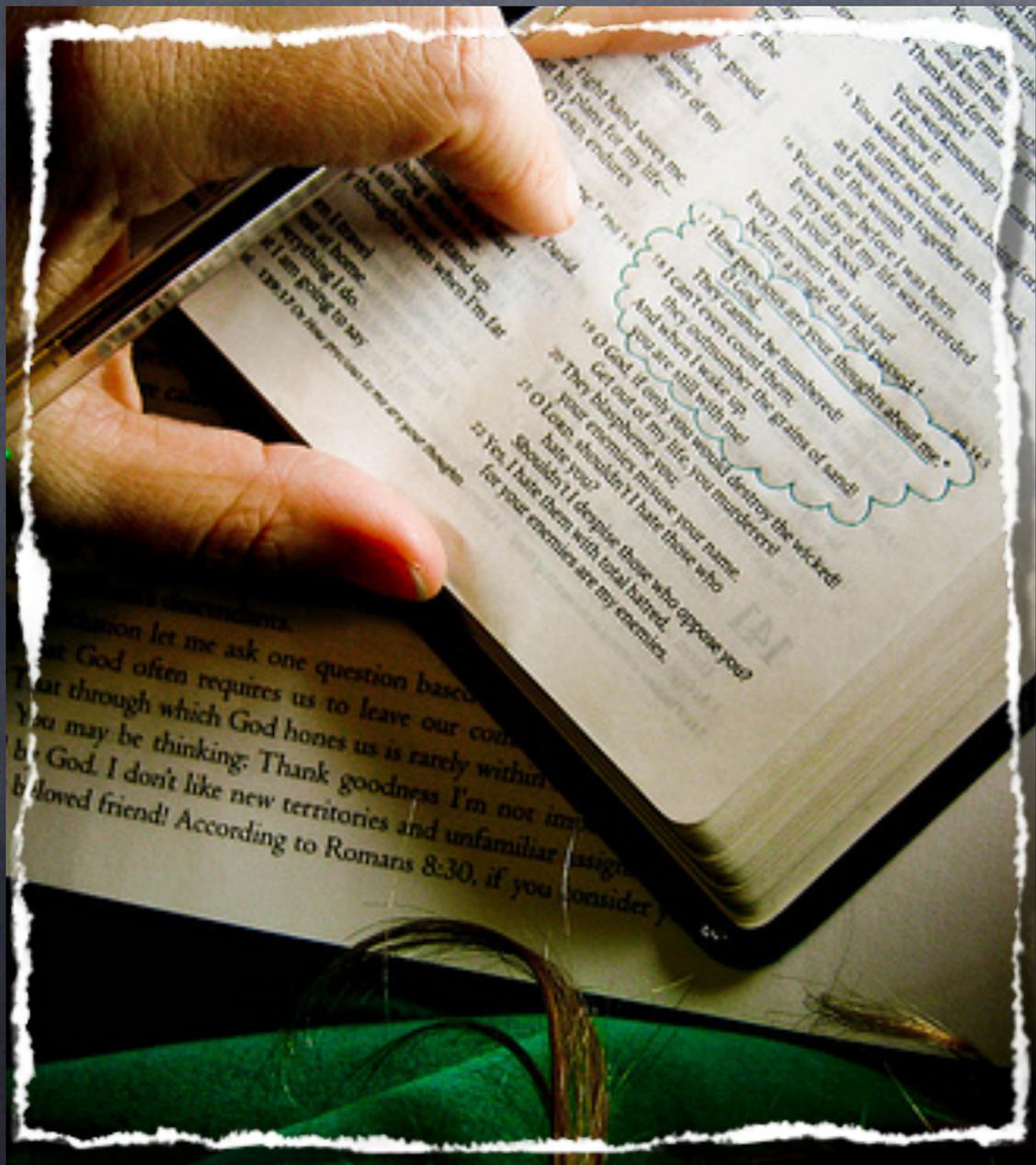


1 Corinthians 10:6
(NKJV)

⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Power of an Example



1 Corinthians 10:11
(NKJV)

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Power of an Example



“The Bible is a book of examples. It records the lives of weak and wicked men to teach us what not to be. The lives and deeds of great and good men are left to show us how to live and what to be. The power of an example is very great for good or evil.

A.C. Dreaden, Gospel Advocate, pg. 1227 of the December 26, 1940, issue.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Power of an Example



“... It is said that seventy five percent of what we learn and do is the result of what we see in others. Our influence radiates in what we say, what we do, and what we are. Man is prone to follow a bad example, as well as a good one; to copy defects as well as virtues. But one thing is certain: he will follow some example.”

A.C. Dreaden, Gospel Advocate, pg. 1227 of the December 26, 1940, issue.



Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,



Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

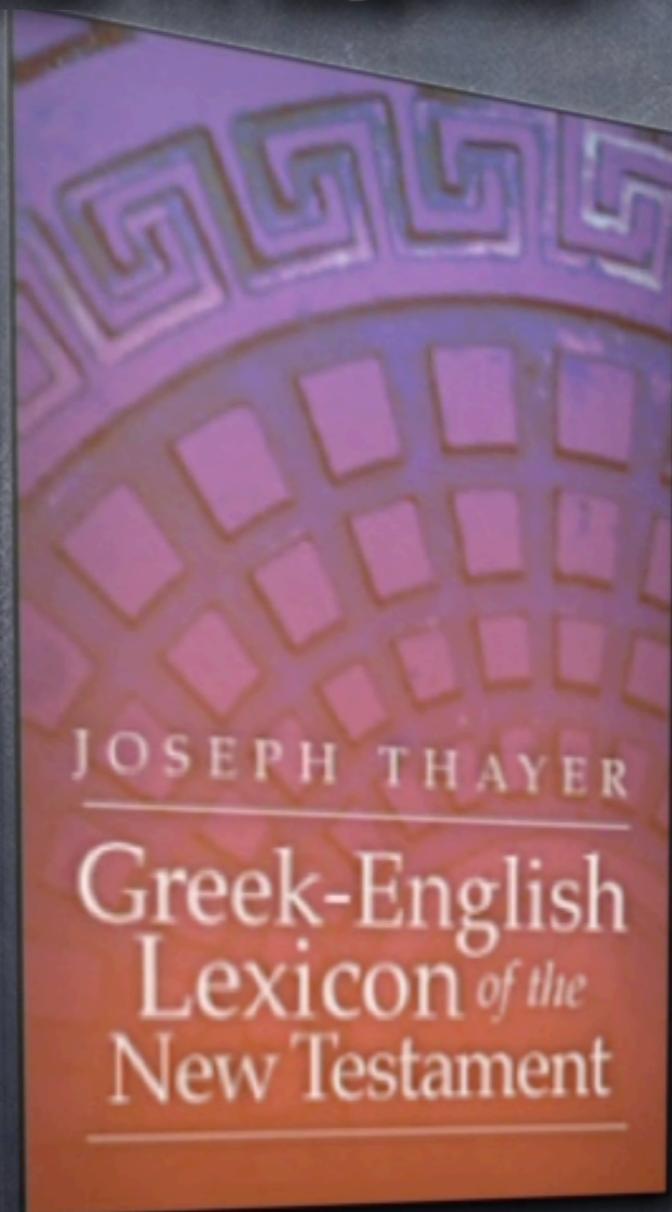


Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



- ◆ Author of our faith.
“author” (archeōgon) see Heb. 2:10 -
- ✦ “One that takes the lead in anything . . . and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter: της πιστεως, of Christ, Hebrews 12:2” - Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



- ◆ Author of our faith.
“author” (archeōgon) see Heb. 2:10 -
- * Jesus “pioneered” the path - He has blazed the trail for us ...
- * By having run the race Himself. (Heb. 2:14-18)

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

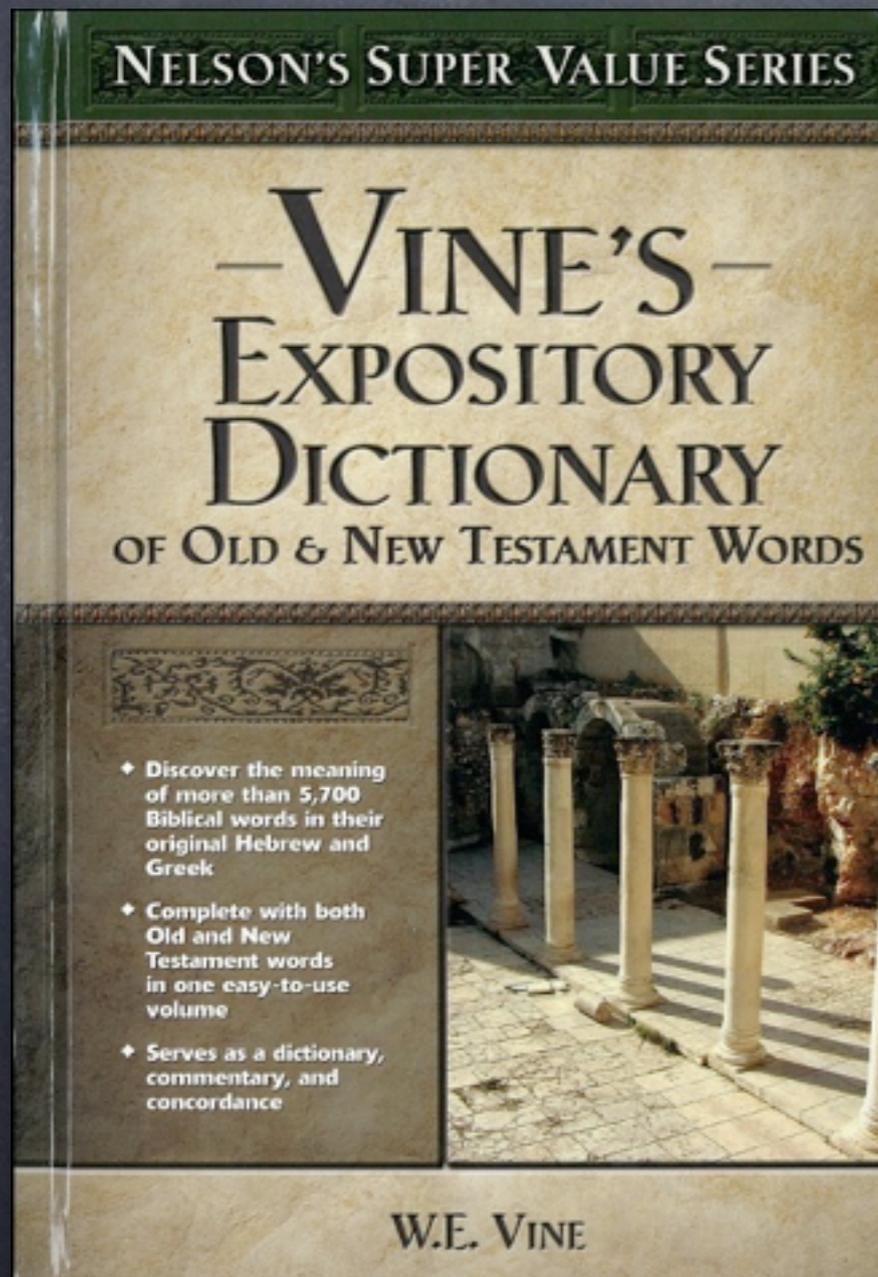
The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



- ◆ Perfecter of our faith He has “perfected” the way of faith since He reached its end successfully. (Heb 4:14-16)
- * As a forerunner He has entered the heavenly sanctuary, (the joy set before Him) - He 6:19-20; 10:20
- * Provides all we need to succeed – 2 Peter 1:3

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



“In Heb. 12:2 where Christ is called the "Author and Perfecter of faith," He is represented as the one who takes precedence in faith and is thus the perfect exemplar of it . . . Christ in the days of His flesh trod undeviatingly the path of faith, and as the Perfecter has brought it to a perfect end in His own person. Thus He is the leader of all others who tread that path.”

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



- ◆ Who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself,
 - * Not only on the cross, but even before! – Luke 4:28,29; 11:53,54
 - * Jesus is our example and we are to follow in His steps – even in suffering! - 1 Peter 2:21; Luke 9:23

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

The Author & Finisher of Our Faith



- ◆ Lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.
- ✦ Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith, provides us with salvation through His example, teaching & victory over death!! - 1 Cor. 15:1-5, 12-19; Ro 5:1-11; Is. 40:31

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

JESUS Our Example



1 Peter 2:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

JESUS Our Example



- ✦ Jesus committed Himself to His Father's business – Luke 2:49; (*so should we - Mat. 17:5; Acts 11:23*)
- ✦ Jesus was baptized to fulfill righteousness – Mat. 3:13-17 - (*we should be baptized for this purpose & others - Acts 2:38; Gal 2:26,27; etc.*)

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

JESUS Our Example



- ✦ Jesus said “NO” to temptation -- Mat. 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13 - (*so should we - 1 John 2:1; John 8:11; Rom 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:34*)
- ✦ Jesus served others –Mark 10:45; Luke 4:18-21; Mat. 9:35-38 - (*so should we - Mark 12:29-31; Gal. 5:13; 6:2; 1 John 3:17-19*)

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JESUS Our Example



- ✦ Jesus was willing to sacrifice for others – Phili. 2:5-10 - (*so should we - Acts 2:44,45; 4:34-37; 1 Tim. 6:17-19*)
- ✦ The Father seen in Jesus – John 14:7,9,20; Heb 1:3 - (*We are God's children in Christ - Mat. 5:13-16; Phili 2:15; Eph. 5:1; 2 Cor. 4:10*)

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

A Christian IS A Follower of Jesus
How Does One Follow Christ?



- ◆ By hearing & doing what Jesus says - Mat. 7:21-27
- ◆ By denying self to serve Jesus - Luke 9:23; John 12:26
- ◆ By developing the same mindset / attitude - Phili 2:5; Col. 3:10; 1 Pet 4:1

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

A Christian IS A Follower of Jesus
How Does One Follow Christ?



- ◆ Has “put on Christ?” – Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27
- ◆ Has Christ “living in” them – Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 4:10
- ◆ Is being “conformed into His image” – Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Benefits of Following Jesus



- ◆ We will have fellowship with God and one another! - John 12:26; 1 John 1:5-7
- ◆ We will fulfill God's purpose for our life! - John 4:34; Eccl. 12:13
- ◆ We will have peace & joy! - Phili 4:4-7
- ◆ We will seek to save others! - Luke 19:10; 1 John 4:9-14
- ◆ We will live eternally in heaven! - Jn 14:1-6

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Is Jesus Your Standard?

or something or someone else?

1 John 2:6

(NKJV)

He who says
he abides in
Him ought
himself also to
walk just as He
walked.



2 Cor. 10:12

(NKJV)

. . . they, measuring
themselves by
themselves, and
comparing
themselves among
themselves, are not
wise.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Is Jesus Your Standard?



John 8:12 (NKJV)

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Are You Following Jesus?



John 10:27
(NKJV)

My sheep
hear My voice,
and I know
them, and they
follow Me.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Will You Be Where He Is
For All Eternity



John 12:26 (NKJV)

If anyone serves Me,
let him follow Me; and
where I am, there My
servant will be also. If
anyone serves Me, him
My Father will honor.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

Will You Be Where He Is
For All Eternity



Rev. 14:4 (NKJV)

. . . These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

- ◆ **Are You Looking To Jesus & Following His teaching?**
- ◆ **If So – Keep Looking To Him – That You Do Not Become Weary!**
- ◆ **If Not – Start Following Him Today By Being Baptized Into Him or be restored!!**

LOOKING *unto* JESUS

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Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 (NKJV)

²³ Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 (NKJV)

²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? ²⁶

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.

Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 (NKJV)

⁵⁷ Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 (NKJV)

⁵⁹ Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:23-26, 57-62 (NKJV)

⁶¹ And another also said,
"Lord, I will follow You, but let
me first go and bid them
farewell who are at my house."

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No
one, having put his hand to
the plow, and looking back, is
fit for the kingdom of God."