

Ready to go; willing to stay home.

Why is the average American Christian mindset - "willing to go yet planning to stay at home" when it comes to missions? Why isn't it the other way around? We believe it's because American Christians don't see the return on investment. Here's what we mean: the more sacrifice; the greater the reward. This is what Jesus said.

Luke 12:32-34 says, "Fear not little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

And again...

Matthew 19:29 says, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive *a hundred times* as much and will inherit eternal life."

Paul saw it...

Philippians 3:7 says, "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count *everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord*. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ..."

There is an undeniable appeal to our desires. It is clear from what Jesus is saying that there is a direct connection between giving your life away in the cause of missions and gaining more treasure in heaven (and the treasure, as we have already discussed, is Christ in all His radiant beauty, majesty and power). So, where the sacrifices are the greatest, the joys are the deepest. One of the missionaries to the Auca peoples of Ecuador, Jim Elliot, wrote in his diary, "He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose." Instead of soothing our collective conscience with a false "*willingness*" to go to the uttermost, let's chase after the great reward Jesus promised and really expect to go!