

Sermon Title: The Subtle Dangers of Contentment, Convenience, and Complacency

III. CONVENIENCE — WHEN COMFORT REPLACES COMMITMENT

[Luke 9:23 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.

[Luke 9:23 Reverse for Clarity](#)

²³ “If anyone desires to avoid following Me, let him indulge himself, refuse the cross, and go his own way.”

Introduction: “Conviction or Convenience?”

Every generation of believers must answer one defining question: Are we following Jesus out of conviction or out of convenience?

It is easy to follow Christ when the path is smooth—

- 1) when blessings abound,
- 2) when the crowd applauds,
- 3) and when obedience costs little.

But the true test of discipleship is not found in the comfort of the sanctuary; it is found in the crucible of sacrifice.

Jesus’ words in **[Luke 9:23](#)** are not an invitation to casual religion—they are a summons to costly surrender.

[Luke 9:23 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.

To deny oneself means that convenience dies at the altar of conviction. It means choosing obedience when the world chooses ease.

It means following Christ not because it is comfortable, but because He is worthy.

If we were to reverse His words for clarity, it might sound like this:

[Luke 9:23 Reverse for Clarity](#)

²³ “If anyone desires to avoid following Me, let him indulge himself, refuse the cross, and go his own way.”

That reversal strikes the heart. It reminds us that discipleship is not about finding the easiest route, it is about walking the narrow road with a steadfast heart. So, the question before us today is this: Are you following Jesus by conviction or by convenience?

When faith costs **1)** you your pride, **2)** your comfort, **3)** your plans, will you still take up your cross? Because comfort may attract a crowd, but conviction builds a disciple.

The Subtle Dangers of Contentment, Convenience, and Complacency (2)

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A. Good Convenience

God gives us tools and resources that make life easier — microphones, livestreams, vehicles — all blessings for ministry.

B. The Danger

But when **convenience becomes the motivation** for faithfulness, **worship loses sacrifice**. Discipleship becomes a matter of **schedule** rather than **surrender**. People begin to ask, “*Is it easy?*” instead of “*Is it right?*” The **gospel of comfort** replaces the **gospel of the cross**.

C. Biblical Illustration

The rich young ruler wanted eternal life — but at no cost. When told to sell his possessions, “*he went away sorrowful*” ([Matthew 19:22](#)).

[Matthew 19:22 NKJV](#)

²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

[Matthew 19:22 Reverse for Clarity](#)

²² If the young man had truly listened with a humble and obedient heart, he would have drawn near to Jesus with joy, surrendering his possessions in faith. But instead, because his heart was bound to his wealth, he turned away in sadness—his riches owning him rather than him owning them.

He loved the idea of **salvation** — but not the inconvenience of **surrender**.

D. Modern Illustration

- We attend worship if it fits our weekend plans.
- We give if the bills are paid.
- We serve if it’s convenient.

But Jesus didn’t call His disciples **to convenience**. He called them **to the cross**.

E. Application

A faith that **costs nothing accomplishes nothing**.

If we serve God only when it’s easy, **we’re not following Christ** — we’re following comfort.

“Present your bodies a living sacrifice.” — [Romans 12:1](#)

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Romans 12:1 NKJV

Living Sacrifices to God

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1 Reverse for Clarity

Instead of **offering yourself fully to God**, you could **withhold your life** and use your body for selfish or worldly purposes.

Rather than being a **living sacrifice**, you could live for your own comfort, pleasure, and ambition—dead to God's call.

Instead of being **holy and acceptable to God**, you could become **defiled by sin and shaped by the world's desires**.

And instead of your life being **a reasonable service of worship**, it could become **an unreasonable display of self-service and rebellion** against the One who showed you mercy.