

A Charge to Keep I Have

1681

Author Charles Wesley

Composer Lowell Mason

Mark 13: 24-37

Matthew 6: 24-34

Leviticus 8: 35

Ephesians 4: 1-16

Luke 21: 25-36

Thoughts on the Text

Being a disciple of Christ is work. It seems in some areas of the world where the gospel is being proclaimed, there is little to no mention regarding the cost of discipleship.

Think of those in scripture who Jesus asked to put down their nets and follow Him and what they must have been thinking. They had to leave that which they knew very well and were perhaps comfortable doing, to follow a man who they knew little about. They soon learned that following him was work, hard work.

This text, based on the writing found in Matthew Henry's commentary on Leviticus, points us to specific ways in which we are called to serve God. One specific was the challenge to serve the present age. It seems often we can get caught spending too much time looking to the past or looking to the future and miss opportunities to serve in the present.

It is important as we plan and think about worship that we remember those that have come before and their great influences. We should keep in mind the future, but we must not overlook the here and now.

As we plan worship, we preach, we direct the choir, we sing, and we pray, we must rely upon God. There is a sense of built in humility in this song. As we spend our segment of history serving God, we should not forget that it's God who enables it all to happen.

As we continue the work to which we are called, there will be challenging moments; moments in which we can perhaps relate to the disciples who had a hard time trusting even as they were experiencing the might, grace, and power of Jesus.

In spite of the challenges that may come our way, may our trust never cease. We are disciples of a great God.