

# At The Labor Office To Sign The Contract (Christ' Servant)

*“When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go’. Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head.’” (Matthew 8: 18-20)*

We prefer always a privilege in every deal we handle, and an instant reward to what we perform. This policy in particular view is good and effective because it puts us in a productive state: a fruit from every tree we plant. But, not every deal gives an immediate reward, and not all toil yields direct gain.

Today, Jesus and the crowd around him is looking for workers for His vineyard. He is searching for people of special characters to distribute responsibilities. Jesus knows the hearts of people who come asking him a job, and his main task with them is this: *First*, to let them know who He is. And *secondly*, declare to them the negative things that they may face if they join His vineyard before telling them the benefits they will get. His word is frank and clear, and he is keen to tell his workers the truth in contrast to the other masters of this world who “*hide thorns and show blossoms*”.

The teacher of the law we will meet today is a man who studied the scriptures well and was prepared and packed up by many recommendations that qualified him and made him acceptable to be a teacher of the law. So he was a man of prestige in reference to his scholastic competency and the position he was in. To this teacher as well as to the other people who want to follow Jesus, Jesus seems to be a good deal: We can use Jesus for multiple purposes; we can do miracle with Jesus, we can heal the sick and drive demons with Jesus, or even we can preach and speak about Jesus. A marvelous Jesus! And even we can put him under our hands rather than to be under his hands. We can add him to the qualifications we carry, and Jesus can be one of the pillars that bolster our prestige.

At this moment, let us inhale a breath and take a cup of coffee in explaining '*foxes and birds*' in Jesus answer before we go back to the tough negotiation about the deal. Birds of the air that come from a far and that perch over the tree, is the description of the foreigners who come from other places and invade the land and build their nests over the tree “which mean Israel”. In the Jewish literature *birds* is a symbol for the pagan Romans who were subjugating Israel at the time of Jesus. *Foxes* in the Jewish literature are those akin but hostile to the people of God, and those include the Edomites who were living inside Israel. At the time of Jesus the Romans and the Edomites were living over the land of Israel, so all the birds and foxes were at home in Israel's land while the true Israelites who were disinherited and dispossessed. And in modern language foxes and birds will stand for the

multiple categories of the society that depart from the way of God and are against His people. And those may include the idolaters, the adulterers, the drunkards, the gamblers, the magicians, the murderers, the men of capitalism, the men who believe in knowledge only and even include the falsw brothers.

In keeping inside the same frame of the above description, Jesus reinstated this teacher of the law who came asking him a post, because he knew what was in his heart and understood what was in his mind. And, in analyzing Jesus answer to this man we can put it in this crescendo manner: You may follow me but you will be under my hands. You may follow me but you are called to live not necessarily in big palaces or to sit in the place of honors. You may follow me but you are called to serve me not only when you are rich but more important when you are passing difficult times. You may follow me but you may lose your job and salary you may not be paid. You may follow me but you will loss your dignity and the world will dishonor you. You may follow me but your family will reject you and the people will persecute you. You may follow me but you may suffer hunger while the wicked and ungodly are well fed and satisfied. You may follow me and at the end of the day when both of us are not having a haven in this world, remember what I told you “*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no where to lay his head.*”

After that Jesus referred this teacher of the law about the details of the contract, a few more conditions are worthy to be mentioned:

- 1) **“A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.” (Matthew 10: 24)**
- 2) **“No-one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit to work in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9: 62)**
- 3) .....

If you agree about that you can put your signature, join the ranks and stand in the last row.

It is hard for the man and hard for us to face such facts but that is the truth. And the Bible did not tell us about the fate of that teacher of the law. But one of those who were called for an interview was Peter, a man who carried a lot of weaknesses in his body but beautiful words came out from his mouth at the time of the interrogation. He said “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*”(John 6: 68). And the same Peter is the one who wrote you “**To this you were called, because Christ suffer for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps.**” (1 Peter 2: 21) And, the same Peter later on passed the brutal death of crucifixion.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Let us read this contract together again before we say.

**My Prayer:** *Dear God, we want to serve you. It is our desire to be used in Your ministries. We pray that You will grant us the grace, the wisdom, and the availability to serve You. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.*