



Mount Olive Church Ministries
20 Battles Street • Hartford, CT
A Six-Week Bible Study on
Complete Commitment to Jesus Christ
Rev. Dr. Victor Thomas

ALL IN WITH CHRIST

Bible Study on Complete Commitment to Jesus Christ

SERIES THEME — MARK 12:30 (KJV)

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”

THE SERIES CHALLENGE

God is not asking for a portion of our lives. He is calling us to love, trust, obey, serve, and live for Him with our whole selves.

Overall Theme Scripture

Mark 12:30 (KJV)

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

There is a difference between **being around Christ and being committed to Christ**.

There is a difference between attending church and surrendering your life.

There is a difference between believing in Jesus and allowing Jesus to become Lord over every area of your life.

Jesus never called His followers to give Him part of themselves. He called them to give Him **everything**.

When Jesus says, “with all thy heart,” He is talking about our affections.

When He says, “with all thy soul,” He is talking about the deepest part of who we are.

When He says, “with all thy mind,” He is talking about our thoughts, attitudes, decisions, and perspectives.

When He says, “with all thy strength,” He is talking about our energy, abilities, resources, and actions.

In other words:

God does not want a portion of us. He wants the whole person.

Going “all in” does not mean that we will never struggle, make mistakes, have questions, or experience weakness. It means that regardless of our weakness, **our direction is toward Christ.**

An all-in Christian says:

“Jesus, you can have my heart.”

“You can have my mind.”

“You can have my plans.”

“You can have my relationships.”

“You can have my gifts.”

“You can have my money.”

“You can have my future.”

“You can have my whole life.”

The question throughout these six weeks is not simply:

“Do you believe in Jesus?”

The deeper question is:

“Does Jesus have all of you?”

WEEK 1

ALL IN MEANS GIVING GOD YOUR WHOLE HEART

Theme Scripture

Mark 12:28–30 (KJV)

“And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...”

Bible Study Aim

By the end of this lesson, students should understand that Christianity is not merely about religious activity. It is about **loving God with the entirety of who we are**.

Why This Matters

We can give God our attendance without giving Him our heart.

We can sing songs without surrendering our hearts.

We can serve in ministry while our hearts are somewhere else.

We can know Scripture and still struggle to love the God of Scripture.

Going all in begins with the heart because **whatever controls the heart eventually controls the life**.

“When you hear the phrase ‘going all in,’ what does that mean to you?”

“What is the difference between being interested in something and being committed to something?”

Jesus is not asking for casual interest. He is asking for complete love.

The Context

Mark 12 takes place during a period when Jesus was being questioned by religious leaders.

They were debating theological issues and asking Jesus difficult questions.

One scribe asks Jesus:

“Which is the first commandment of all?”

Jesus does not give him a complicated theological answer.

He takes him back to the heart of Israel’s faith:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.”

Then Jesus says:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart...”

Notice that Jesus begins with **love**, not activity.

Expository Breakdown

1. “Hear, O Israel”

Before God asks for our obedience, He asks us to **listen**.

Going all in requires learning to hear God.

Question:

What are some things competing for our attention that make it difficult for us to hear God?

2. “The Lord our God is one Lord”

God is not supposed to be one priority among many.

He is **Lord**.

If He is Lord, He cannot simply occupy one compartment of our lives.

Question:

What happens when we try to make God one priority among many instead of making Him our highest priority?

3. “Thou shalt love”

Jesus does not say merely:

“Attend.”

“Work.”

“Perform.”

“Participate.”

He says:

LOVE.

Christianity begins with a relationship with God.

Question:

What is the difference between serving God because you love Him and serving God because you feel obligated?

4. "With all thy heart"

The heart represents the center of our affections and desires.

God does not want divided loyalty.

Question:

What are some things that can compete with God for our hearts?

5. "With all thy soul"

God wants the deepest part of us.

Not just what people see.

Not just our Sunday selves.

He wants our private selves.

Question:

Who are you spiritually when nobody else is watching?

6. "With all thy mind"

Going all in includes our thinking.

We cannot give God our heart while allowing our mind to be controlled by everything contrary to God's Word.

Romans 12:2 (KJV):

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Question:

How can our thoughts keep us from going all in with Christ?

7. "With all thy strength"

Faith eventually becomes visible.

If we love God, our love should influence our behavior.

Question:

What should change in our lives when we genuinely love God?

Discussion

1. What does “all” mean in Mark 12:30?
 2. Why do you think Jesus used the word “all” repeatedly?
 3. Can someone be active in church without being all in with Christ?
 4. What are some signs that someone’s heart is divided?
 5. What competes for your heart?
 6. What does loving God with your mind look like?
 7. What does loving God with your strength look like?
 8. What area of your life is hardest to surrender to God?
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Life Application

“If I am really going all in with Christ, I need to surrender _____.”

“What would change this week if you actually surrendered that area?”

Closing Challenge

“God is not looking for the Sunday version of you. God wants all of you.”

Identify one area of life that has not been completely surrendered to Christ.

Homework

Read:

- Mark 12:28–30
- Romans 12:1–2
- Proverbs 3:5–6

Write answers to:

1. What does going all in with Christ mean to me?
2. What area of my life have I struggled to surrender?
3. What is one specific change I will make this week?

Be prepared to share one answer at the beginning of Week 2.

ALL IN WITH CHRIST

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Week 2 – Scripture Luke 9: 23 KJV

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me

THE 2nd Week CHALLENGE

Following Jesus means more than believing in Him. It means choosing His will over our own, accepting the cost of obedience, and saying “yes” to Him again each day. What will you surrender so you can follow Him more fully this week?

This Week’s Aim

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to explain what Jesus means by **denying yourself, taking up your cross daily, and following Him**. You will also identify one choice through which you can surrender to Christ this week.

Looking Back at Week 1

Last week, you identified an area of your life that you needed to surrender to God.

What area did you identify? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.

What did you do differently this week? If you struggled, what did you learn?

Understanding the Setting

Read **Luke 9:18–26** before studying verse 23.

In verse 20, Peter identifies Jesus as “the Christ of God.” Jesus then tells His disciples that He will suffer, be rejected, be killed, and rise on the third day (verse 22). After speaking about what lies ahead for Him, Jesus tells *everyone* listening what following Him will require.

Knowing **who Jesus is** matters. So does deciding whether we will follow Him when obedience costs us something. Jesus speaks honestly about that cost, and He calls us to walk after Him.

Think about it: Why might it be easier to say “Jesus is Lord” than to let Him direct a difficult decision?

Exploring Luke 9:23

1. “If any man will come after me”

Jesus extends an invitation to anyone willing to follow Him. To “come after” Jesus means more than admiring His teaching or enjoying His blessings. A follower pays attention to where Jesus is leading and responds.

Today, someone might admire Jesus’ compassion but refuse to forgive. Someone might share a Bible verse online but ignore His teaching when making a decision at work or at home. **Admiration can leave our lives unchanged; following Jesus reaches our choices.**

Cross-reference — John 10:27: Jesus says that His sheep hear His voice and follow Him. Hearing and following belong together.

Discuss: What is the difference between admiring Jesus and following Him?

Where would that difference show up in your life this week?

2. “Let him deny himself”

Denying yourself does **not** mean hating yourself or pretending your needs do not matter. It means refusing to let your desires have the final word when they conflict with God’s will.

Self-denial often appears in ordinary moments: telling the truth when a lie would protect your image, apologizing when pride tells you to defend yourself, or choosing generosity when you would rather keep everything for yourself. The question is, “**Who is directing this choice—me or Christ?**”

Jesus’ call to self-denial is never a reason to accept abuse or remain in danger. Seeking help and safety can be wise, faithful choices.

Cross-reference — Luke 22:42: Jesus prays, “not my will, but thine, be done.” He brings His desire honestly before the Father and submits to the Father’s will.

Cross-reference — Philippians 2:5–8: Jesus’ humility and obedience provide an example for His followers.

Discuss: Why is self-denial difficult?

What are you afraid you might lose if you give God control in a certain area?

3. “Take up his cross”

To Jesus’ first listeners, the cross was an instrument of execution. His words described a serious commitment: following Him even when obedience brings sacrifice, rejection, or loss.

Not every inconvenience is “carrying your cross.” In Luke 9:23, the cost is connected to **following Jesus**. A student might refuse to join in mocking someone, even if it costs them popularity. An employee might reject a dishonest shortcut, even if others apply pressure. A believer might release a cherished plan to obey what Christ is asking of them.

In **Luke 9:24–25**, Jesus asks us to consider what we gain or lose when we make everything else more important than Him. Following Christ may cost us something, but refusing to follow Him has a cost too.

Cross-reference — Mark 8:34–36: Jesus also speaks about taking up the cross and asks what it profits a person to gain the world while losing their soul.

Discuss: What might following Christ require someone to give up in 2026?

How can you distinguish a sacrifice made for Christ from an ordinary difficulty?

4. “Daily”

Jesus says to take up the cross **daily**. Surrender is an ongoing way of life, not only a decision made once during a service or Bible study.

Each day brings new choices. You may choose patience in the morning and face a fresh test that afternoon. You may trust God with your plans today and feel tempted to take back control tomorrow. Daily discipleship means continuing to turn toward Christ.

A simple practice is to pause before a difficult conversation, purchase, post, or decision and ask: **“Will this move me toward Jesus or away from Him?”**

Cross-reference — Lamentations 3:22–23: God’s mercies are “new every morning.” We can depend on His mercy as we respond to Him each day.

Cross-reference — Galatians 5:16: Paul calls believers to walk in the Spirit—an ongoing pattern of life.

Discuss: Why do you think Jesus included the word “daily”?

When is it hardest for you to keep choosing Christ?

5. “Follow me”

Jesus ends with **“follow me.”** Self-denial and sacrifice are not goals by themselves. We surrender so we can live in closer obedience to *Him*.

Following Jesus includes learning His teaching, trusting His character, and applying His words to our choices. It also means turning back to Him when we stumble. We do not sustain discipleship through willpower alone; we need an ongoing relationship with Christ.

Culture may tell us to build our lives around popularity, possessions, or being right. Our feelings may urge us toward the easiest choice. Jesus asks us to consider: **“What would faithfulness to Me look like here?”**

Cross-reference — John 15:4–5: Jesus calls His followers to abide in Him and reminds them that they need Him to bear fruit.

Cross-reference — Galatians 2:20: Paul describes living by faith in the Son of God. Surrender is not only giving something up; it is learning to live with Christ at the center.

Discuss: What does following Jesus look like when His way differs from what you feel like doing?

Bringing the Lesson Together

Luke 9:23 calls us to:

Jesus’ words A question to ask yourself

Come after me Am I only interested in Jesus, or am I following Him?

Deny himself Where am I insisting on having the final word?

Take up his cross Am I willing to obey when it costs me something?

Daily What choice do I need to make again today?

Follow me Is this decision moving me toward Christ?

Group Discussion

1. What does denying yourself mean in an ordinary decision?
 2. What is the difference between surrendering to Christ and simply giving something up?
 3. What makes surrender difficult for you: fear, pride, comfort, uncertainty, or something else?
 4. Can we say we are following Jesus while refusing every change His Word calls for?
 5. What encourages you about the fact that Jesus walked a costly path before calling us to follow Him?
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Your Response This Week

Complete these statements. You may keep your answers private.

One “yes” I believe God is asking me to give Him is:

One “no” I need to give myself is:

One specific action I will take in the next seven days is:

I will take that action on or by: _____

Homework for Week 3

Read: Luke 9:23–26; Philippians 2:5–8; Galatians 2:20.

Write your answers:

1. What does self-denial mean in my life right now?

2. What is one specific “yes” I need to give God?

3. What habit, attitude, relationship, or priority do I need to surrender?

4. What action will show that I am following Jesus in that area?

Pray each day: “Lord, not my will, but Thine be done.”