**The Malady:** Selfish and self-righteous hearts are too dark to follow Christ by themselves or to do his will.

**The Telic Note:** The Holy Spirit intends to call us to the radical Son of God in radical devotion to him and his cause for this earth.

**Propositional Statement:** Jesus’ radical love for us makes him the number one person in our lives and demands that we have no other priorities higher than him and his love for us and the whole world.

**Theme: Jesus Radical Love Makes us Radically Devoted!**

1. Radically Devoted to Loving Even Our Enemies!
2. Radically Devoted to Jesus Above All Other Priorities!

**Expanded Outline:**

**Introduction**: The introduction should introduce the pathos of the text and the problems in human nature that God intends to resolve and/or the corresponding virtues he will restore in and through us by his gospel. In this sermon I chose an example of unconditional love that touches our hearts and makes us wonder at how it can be done. Then I go from the lesser love of a man (Chris Chapman – See the printed sermon.) to the similar but much greater love of Christ. You can find your own example. Just make sure that if you choose another example that you keep the theme and text in mind and make the point of comparison the unconditional love of Christ that made him choose a radical path to redemption and then use the first verse of the text in the theme to get your people into this word of God with you.

**Transition: (Read Luke 9:51)** We know that Jesus knew going to Jerusalem meant torture and death. Jesus knew that he was soon to die for every single sin you and I would ever commit. He knew that we would be the spiritual weak link in our relationship with him even after we had come to faith. He knew that he would need to forgive us over and over and over again. He knew that he would have to show unlimited patience and kindness to us for the length of our marriage to him and yet, (pause) he resolutely set his face for Jerusalem. Like Chris Chapman, Jesus said, “Let’s do this!” and he married us for eternal life! That is amazing love, isn’t it?

**Theme: Jesus Radical Love Makes us Radically Devoted!**

**Transition:** You would think that Jesus’ love for us once realized in our souls would make us just like him, radical lovers of God and people. But it’s not so (malady). We fall far short too often. We see it in the account that follows. (Read Luke 9:52-56).

1. Radically Devoted to Loving Even Our Enemies!
2. There is no question that James and John loved Jesus who loved them.
3. But they did not easily get it that Christ’s love made them devoted to loving their enemies.
4. We easily love Jesus for loving us without recognizing that loving Jesus means loving all others as he does (1 John 4 and 5)
5. The man who wrote 1 John is the one who at first wanted to judge the Samaritans here (John)
6. If John can be changed by Jesus, so can we. Stay close to him and let his love and example become yours.

**Transition:** In the next verses from Luke’s hand, he reveals another way we show devotion to Christ. He does it through recording three verbal exchanges between Jesus and would be followers. We will take them all as a whole. Each one teaches us that Jesus’ devotion to us leads us to be devoted to him above all other priorities. Get ready for a shocking look at Christ. (Read Luke 9:57-62)

1. Radically Devoted to Jesus Above All Other Priorities!
2. The first man thinks he will have a great place on earth following Jesus.
3. Following Jesus is a desert experience, a pilgrimage to our place in heaven.
4. If they called Jesus Beelzebub they will reject us too.
5. The second man wanted to make Jesus wait for a pretty good reason
6. There is no good reason to make Jesus wait. He is God and he is our loving Savior.
7. The third man wants Jesus to wait for lesser reason but for lesser time as the second.
8. There is no good reason to make Jesus wait.
9. There are no good old days to long for when following Jesus.
10. These three conversations make all of us check our priorities and ask what is in front of Jesus and his kingdom in our priorities.
11. Repentance (with contrition over sin and faith in grace) is our only response.

**Conclusion:** (Return to the story from the introduction and reveal some new and perhaps surprising information. Use that new information to end the sermon on a gospel note. The gospel empowers us to live a sanctified life.)

 Here is how I did it:

At the beginning I told you about Chris and Rachel Chapman in 2010. But now it is 2016. You might wonder where they are today. Well, they are still together, happily married and God has blessed them with a baby girl. Rachel has very limited use of her arms and no use of her legs. But they are still together and totally devoted to one another. I would guess that after six years, like all couples, they have realized big challenges in getting along, getting bye and getting through with one another. But they are still there for each other. In the same way, your husband Jesus is still there for you too. He will never reject you just because spiritually speaking you are weak in the arms and legs and you easily forget to love your enemies. He signed up to love you all the way to the end. I wonder how Rachel feels whenever she is tempted to give up serving her knight in shining armor, Chris. I would guess she snaps out of it pretty quickly when she thinks of how unconditionally he still loves her - from the start of their marriage till now. He chose her with all her weaknesses and he still loves her with the same. So, how do you snap out of it when you start to grow weary of making Christ first in your life? Just remember his love for you that has accepted you with all your warts too. He is still there for you faithfully too. Then honor him by loving and forgiving your enemies and by giving him the “Number One” spot in your heart in every situation. **AMEN**