

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Discipleship Is Serious Business!

Luke 9: 57-62

With the fifty-first verse of chapter 9 we begin a new section in Luke's Gospel. This verse marks the beginning of the final journey to Jerusalem and narrates many of the events that transpired in these last months of Jesus' ministry. From Jesus' perspective, it is time to refine the expectations of being His follower; a time to define the cost of discipleship.

Transitional Paragraph & The Beginning of the Journey

Jesus chooses to travel through Samaria and is met with prejudice and rejection. This brings out the carnality of the "sons of thunder," James and John and Jesus reminds them that His mission is to seek and to save, not to judge and to destroy.

I. Following Jesus Is Not a Hasty Decision

- A. This would be follower seems to be reacting out of excitement and romanticism.
- B. Jesus points out the sacrifice His followers must anticipate:
 - 1. no place to sleep
 - 2. no room for rest
- C. This is the time to work: the sacrifice is high, the work is hard, the journey is long—heaven comes at the end, not the beginning

II. Following Jesus Takes Priority and Precedence Over *EVERYTHING* Else

- A. The Scriptures are very clear about the requirement to honor one's parents (the first commandment with a promise), the sanctity of marriage, and the high stewardship of children who are a gift from God... But loyalty and commitment to Jesus trump them all!
- B. Two examples:
 - 1. First let me bury my father
 - 2. First let me say good-bye to those at home
- C. Matthew 10:34-39—the supremacy of following Jesus
 - 1. More important than your parents
 - 2. More important than your children
 - 3. More important than your marriage (I Cor 7:12-16)
 - 4. More important than your earthly security
 - 5. More important than your job or career
 - 6. More important than your reputation
 - 7. More important than your health or your life

You shall have no other gods before Me! Following Jesus Christ is the most important decision of your life and takes precedence over everything else in your life. He is not a part of your life, He is to BE your life. He is your most intimate relationship. He is your security, your Provider, and your future. It is better to be remembered by Him than by the acclaim of people. He is your Healer and your destiny; your life and your eternity is in His hand. Are you truly a follower of Jesus Christ?

As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9: 57-62

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13: 34-35

