

Lesson 13: In Jerusalem For the Feast

November 18, 2020
"Follow Me"
Luke 9:51-56

"Follow Me ..."

Luke 9:57-62

"As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, **'I will follow You wherever You go.'**" (Luke 9:57; cf. Matthew 26:35)

- Note that this "someone" was a scribe. (Matthew 8:19)
 - Why did some "follow" Jesus? (John 6:26)
- Jesus is addressing **commitment**. Notice the last verse of this context:
- "No one, after **putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**" (Luke 9:62)

"Follow Me ..."

Luke 9:57-62

"As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, **'I will follow You wherever You go.'**" (Luke 9:57)

Jesus, knowing his heart, knew he wasn't thinking about the cost of following Him and said in reply:

"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Luke 9:58)

- Following Jesus means sacrifice. (2 Samuel 24:24)
- Following Jesus means contentment. (Philippians 4:11)
- A mindset of "sojourners and pilgrims" (1 Peter 2:11 ^{ASV})

The Lord asks each of us to "**calculate the cost.**" (Luke 14:25ff)

"Follow Me ..."

Luke 9:57-62

Jesus approached someone else as they journeyed and simply said: "**Follow Me.**" (Luke 9:59; cf. Luke 5:27-28)

This individual (a "**disciple**" – Matthew 8:21) responded by saying: "**Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.**" (Luke 9:59)

- What is the key word he said?
- Not that it's wrong to properly bury one's father.
- What comes before our following the Lord?
 - What comes before our worship?
 - What comes before our service?
 - What comes first? (Matthew 6:33)

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Jesus responded: "**Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.**"

- "**Allow the dead ...**" – what type of "dead"?
Ephesians 2:1-5)
 - "... **to bury the dead**" – to focus on the temporal (yet important) matters of life.
- Not this "but" this: "go and proclaim ... the kingdom."**
- Do we see the urgency of this? (John 4:35)
 - What comes first? Family or the Lord?
(Matthew 10:34-39; 1 Corinthians 7:35)
 - Will we be "**useful to the Master**"? (2 Timothy 2:21)

"Follow Me ..."

Luke 9:57-62

A 3rd person said:

"**I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.**" (Luke 9:61)

Reminder of Elisha before following Elijah.
(1 Kings 19:19-21)

Knowing the cost, would those "**at home**" be encouraging of his decision? (cf. Acts 21:12-13)

Was he aware of the pull between the flesh and the Spirit?

“Follow Me ...”

Luke 9:57-62

Jesus responded:

“No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 9:62)

“Putting our hand to the plow ...” is a proverbial expression of the committed decision to undertake any particular endeavor or task.

“... and looking back ...” is to regret the decision and commitment we’ve made. (Luke 17:32; Numbers 14:1-4; 1 Peter 4:3)

- Paul understood this point ... **“forgetting”** and **“pressing on”!** (Philippians 3:7-16; cf. Matthew 19:27)
- Everyone’s example of faith understood this! (Hebrews 11:13-16)

“Follow Me ...”

Luke 9:57-62

The one who looks back, having put his hand to the plow, isn’t **“fit”** for the kingdom.

“Fit” means “well situated ... fit, meet, proper ... by implication, it means useful.” (Zodhiates)

The one looking back isn’t appropriate or fit in the Lord’s kingdom because their commitment is compromised and is useless (Matthew 25:30; 2 Timothy 2:21)

What is the effect of **“looking back”** on our:

- Faith
- Courage
- Perseverance
- Zeal
- Love