

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon – The Inerrancy of The Bible, Pt 5

Follow Him All the Way, Now

Scripture: Luke 9:57–62

03-25-2012

**Luke 9:57–62 (NKJV)** <sup>57</sup> Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “**Lord, I will follow You** wherever You go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” <sup>59</sup> **Then He said to another, “Follow Me.”** But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> **And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You,** but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.” <sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” and (Matthew 8:18–22 (NKJV) )

To continue on with addressing some of the more troubling passages is the scripture I want to address one that caused me to stop and think some time ago.

In our passage today we deal with the expectation of Christ to those that seek to follow Him. It deals with the followers of Christ "Christians" and their relationship with their family.

This passage deals with three individual who indicated that they would follow Christ.

Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem they entered a village along the way after being rejected by the Samaritans (*Luke 9:52–53*) because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. These people were descendants of Jewish mixed marriages from the days of captivity. <sup>1</sup> There were very bitter feelings between the Samaritans and the Jews.

<sup>57</sup> **Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “**Lord, I will follow You** wherever You go.”**

Matthew describes this person as a scribe. *Matthew 8:19 (NKJV)*. That is significant because the Scribes and the Pharisees were the chief groups against Jesus and were among those that demanded His crucifixion. This was very brave of Him. His reasons for following Jesus was not mentioned.

From the response of Jesus, we may see into this man's (Scribes') heart. Scribes were part of what you may call the ruling class among the Jews. They were well respected and seemed to have lived well. Jesus did not say welcome to the group nor did He send the man away, He just pointed out what the cost would be in following Him. Even He did not have a home or a bed.

This would represent a radical change in the living style of the Scribe and perhaps he did not want to give that up. So many that start out following Christ stop following Him when the pathway gets tough, when personal sacrifices are required. This could be in any one of the general categories of sacrificing their time, sacrificing their talent or sacrificing their treasure. We hear no more of this man.

The second man is more interesting.

<sup>59</sup> **Then He said to another, “Follow Me.**

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. J. (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Lk 9:52). Nashville: Word Pub.

This is markedly different than the first man because Jesus **invited** him to come and follow Him. This is the same method that Jesus used to call His first disciples. and *Matt:8 21* says that this man was a "disciple". What a privilege to be called specifically by Jesus to be His follower.

**V59b But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”**

This may not seem like an outright rejection but merely a delay for what he considered a legitimate reason. I have heard many "legitimate" reasons why some people will not come to church, not step up to committed service, not to tithe. Most say that they are going to but time marches on and there is no change.

Now this man's reason seems like a good one until we look deeper into it. This man says yes to the call even after hearing the reply to the first man. He was a limited disciple, where and when he would follow Jesus was limited to the timing of the death of his father. As a disciple he had a greater obligation to Christ. In effect he said I will go with you Jesus but not right away because I have an obligation to fulfill first.

Quote "We do not sign up to follow Christ sometime but all the time and not somewhere but everywhere."

**V60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”**

Let those that are dead spiritually bury their own but you are being called to a spiritual life.

There are two thoughts to consider here.

1. Was his father of old age and dying? or
2. Was his father already dead?

If his father was not dead at this time, then there could be a long period of time before he died and the work Jesus had to do could not wait on the events in the life of one man

*John 9:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

If his father was already dead then the question is why wasn't he there with him. Even if so, there is a long period of time before he could catch up to Jesus.

In the seemingly strange reply, which Christ made to the request to be allowed first to bury his father, we pass over the consideration that, according to Jewish law, the burial and mourning for a dead father, and the subsequent purifications, would have occupied many days, so that it might have been difficult, perhaps impossible, to overtake Christ.<sup>2</sup> (*Life and Times of Jesus Christ the Messiah*)

**V60b but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”**

This man was called to preach the kingdom of God. That was more urgent than waiting for the father to die, I have been guilty of delaying my response to the calling of Christ in exchange for events in my world. The events in my life were a waste of time in comparison to the more important work I could have been doing for Christ.

What about you, is there something you feel Christ is calling you to but you are waiting for a more convenient time?

*Acts 24:25 (NKJV)<sup>25</sup> Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”*

Following Christ will cause conflict in one's life and family

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<sup>2</sup> Edersheim, A. (1896). *Vol. 2: The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (133). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

*Matthew 10:34–36 (NKJV)* <sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; <sup>36</sup> and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’

Following Christ will often cause conflict even within the family. This kind of conflict will cause the follower of Christ to make a choice between family and Christ.

Christ is to hold first place; He is to be the priority in our lives.

*Luke 14:25–27 (NKJV)* <sup>25</sup> Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple

We are to love everything and everyone less than we love Christ.

Look, I know at first it is not easy. Most of our years have been trying to get ahead in life. We have been trying to get more money, be liked by others. I assure you that if you put Christ first by loving Him more, you will not miss those other things in the world that you used to place before Him.

We come now to the third person.

**V61And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”**

Now I am going to make what I consider to be a well-founded assumption. notice in verse 62 which records Jesus reply specifically to this man and later for us.

**V<sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

By using the metaphor of already putting his hands to the plow makes me believe that this man was also a disciple of Christ. It was now time for these local disciples to leave the comforts of their surroundings and follow Jesus wherever He went. They said they were willing "But".

But the ministry of the gospel is *preferable*, and the service of it more urgent than that of the prophets; and therefore, here it would not be allowed.

Jesus' responds to the two disciples is in contrast to the response of Elijah to Elisha when he requested, he be allowed to go home and to say goodbye to his parents. (*1 Kings 19:19-21*).

The Gospel message and the Messiah cannot wait.

*John 9:4 (NKJV)* <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Because the Gospel message still cannot wait, we cannot wait to spread it and to live it.

**9:62 looking back.** A plowman looking back cuts a crooked furrow.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, J. J. (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Lk 9:62). Nashville: Word Pub.

I think there are many who hear the call of Jesus within their spirit. The call could be of one to salvation, one to service or even one to sacrifice. But the call is either ignored or rejected by what they consider to be legitimate excuses as it was with this second man.

To follow Jesus, you must count the cost. Salvation is free but there is a cost. Jesus paid the price now we must be willing to share the cost.

There is no credit for going part of the way but we must go all the way.

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