

Concurrent with Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem is His training of those who would follow Him after His 'exodus.' His first priority work does not displace the necessity of continuing His second priority work.

What transferable principles can we learn from these verses concerning our own discipleship?

The Doctrine: **The Disciple's Service for Christ is to Announce the Fact of His Coming so that Others Can Be Prepared to Receive Him with the Honor and Dignity Appropriate to His Everlasting Kingship.**

The Christian life means nothing if the present 'now' is not lived in the context of the eternal 'not yet'.

This service is faithfully accomplished when performed with the following characteristics.

- It is the 'work' of a seemingly _____ labor force. The harvest is vast and the number of workers is small. Thus the instruction, "Beg that the Lord of the harvest will send out laborers into His harvest."
- It is a work that demands single-minded _____. Take the bare minimum of necessities and be willing to depend upon others. The workman is worthy of his wages.
- It is a work that demands _____. After all, what imaginations come to mind when visualizing a couple of sheep in the midst of a wolf pack?
- It is a work that demands _____. You know that you have a divine commission. The King has shared His authority with you. If someone hears you, they are hearing Christ and the One who Sent Him. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and confident of what we have not yet seen (Heb. 11:1). "If in this life only we have hope, we are on all men most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19).
- It is a work that necessitates _____. Not all will welcome the message as 'good news.' People who are warned might get the impression that the King thinks they are guilty of something. "Remember Lot's wife!"

"knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, 'Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.' For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished" (2 Peter 3:3-6).

- The work demands the joyful discernment that comes from true _____. Do not rejoice that the demons are subject to you. Do rejoice instead and indeed that your names are written down in heaven. Who would ever have thought that such an amazing fact could be true! Our service to Christ can become the biggest obstacle to our discipleship if we rejoice more in the experience of our effectiveness than in the infinite grace that made the service possible. Here is the difference between a man-centered religion and a God-centered faith. Only true faith can honor the Savior.