

November 12, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Luke 9:57-62 – “The Cost of Discipleship”

- A. You cannot just load up your shopping cart when you go into a store to buy food, clothing, electronics, or other goods. You have to first count the cost. In today’s text Jesus tells us to count the cost of following Him.
- B. Earlier in this chapter, Jesus sent out the twelve and **“gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases” (v1)**. In addition to that, they witnessed Jesus feeding the five thousand. Peter, James, and John were also privileged to witness the transfiguration.

Jesus warns you to count the cost of discipleship.	I. SUFFERING TO FOLLOW CHRIST II. THE PRIORITY OF FOLLOWING CHRIST
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I. SUFFERING TO FOLLOW CHRIST →**v57**

A. The background of this statement was twofold:

- 1. This person heard Christ’s authoritative, powerful teaching and preaching.
- 2. He or she either saw or heard reports of the miraculous works Jesus did.

B. Notice the answer Jesus gave this person. →**v58**

- 1. Jesus said that He didn’t have a home of His own.
- 2. Jesus lived like a traveling nomad, a traveler without a permanent, fixed residence.
 - a. The apostles and many others who committed to following Jesus had to be willing to also live like nomads.
 - b. We don’t know if the excited individual was still excited to follow Jesus after Jesus gave this reply.
- 3. Does this passage mean that every Christian who follows Jesus needs to give up owning a home or at least having a long-term place of residence like an apartment?
 - a. The rich tax collector, Zacchaeus, gave half of his possessions to the poor and made restitution to those he defrauded. Jesus said salvation came to this man, yet he was not called to give up his home— his place to lay his head (**Lu 19:1-10**).
 - b. Martha welcomed Jesus and the disciples into her home to offer them hospitality. She never gave up her home yet used it to minister to others. She retained her place to lay her head.
 - c. For the apostles and for many disciples who were to preach the gospel wherever Jesus went, a nomad life was required; however, this wasn’t required of every Christian.

C. A nomad’s life was just one example of hardship Jesus gave at this time. Elsewhere Jesus said following Him would lead to suffering.

- 1. In **Mat 10**, Jesus warned His disciples that their life would involve imprisonment, betrayal, fleeing from city to city, and even death for some (**vv17-23**).
- 2. In **Mat 10:24-25**, He said, **“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. ... If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, [ruler of demons] how much more will they malign the members of his household!”**

II. THE PRIORITY OF FOLLOWING CHRIST → vv59-60

A Many have found this to be one of the hardest sayings in all of the Bible.

1. To bury one's parents is in keeping with the fifth commandment.
2. If this man's father had just died, he may have been at the funeral or on the way to the funeral because burial happened very shortly after a death according to Jewish customs.
3. A possible interpretation was that this man had an elderly father who had to be cared for, so he was saying that he would follow Jesus after his father died and was buried.
4. In *Hard Sayings of the Bible*, the authors wrote that caring for elderly parents among the Jews "... took precedence over the most solemn religious obligations. But so important in Jesus' eyes was the business of following him and promoting the kingdom of God that it took precedence even over the burial of the dead."¹
5. Still another interpretation is that the (spiritually) dead are to bury their own dead; however, this is not to be taken as a proof text to give you an excuse not to go to the funerals of unbelieving friends and family.

B. Another man came expressing a desire to follow Jesus, yet he also had reservations. → vv61-62

1. This reason is not as substantial as burying one's father, yet seems reasonable.
2. When Elisha was called to follow Elijah, he went back to his family to hold a farewell feast (1 Ki 19:19f). So, why did Jesus not permit it in this case?
 - a. Jesus, the One to be followed in this case, was far greater than Elijah.
 - b. Our Lord told some persons exactly what they needed because He knew their hearts, their motivations, and temptations. In this man's case, Jesus may have known the man had a divided heart.
 - c. J.C. Ryle in his *Expository Thoughts* warned his readers of having such a heart (p.341)

C. It is a great blessing to have family who encourage you in the way of Christ so that you can follow Him together; however, I know for some of you that has not been the case.

1. In many a case, what Jesus said in Mat 10 has come to pass in your family. In fulfillment of Micah 7:6, He said in v34f, **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; ³⁶and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD."**
2. If you have had to make such sacrifices, Jesus assures you, **"Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life"** (Mat 19:29)

Review, conclusion, and further application:

¹ Kaiser, W. C., Jr., Davids, P. H., Bruce, F. F., & Brauch, M. T. (1996). *Hard Sayings of the Bible* (p. 464). InterVarsity.