

Theme: Following Jesus is not something we *add* on to our lives, serving him or imitating him (when we can) in *our* world; it is entering into His world and the circumstances of *His* life with the promise of entering/receiving His Kingdom.

Background: Last week – Samaritans refuse to help, receive Jesus.
Not ready to follow Jesus. Now meet three who think they are ready.

Introduction: Seriously “Hard Saying of Jesus”

I. I’ll Follow You – I Think

A. A bold declaration (and rash!) 57 (Matthew 20:22; Matthew 26:35)
- Making promises and keeping them are two different things

B. Living with the homeless

1. No “den” or “nest” (58)
2. Not as much rest as foxes and birds

B. Count the cost.

C. Citizenship in Heaven

1. This world is not His home – nor is it yours.
- This world is full of rejection, discomfort, brokenness
- Expect it
2. Temporal losses – eternal gains.
- Not rest in the world – but rest for your soul!
3. “There’s no place like home.”
- Have heavenly home beyond comparison
- Matthew 11:28-30

II. I’ll Follow You - Eventually

A. “Jesus calls! Follow Me” (59)
- The most important invitation ever given!
- When call comes plainly, clearly – it is *Urgent!*

B. Hesitation

1. “Let me bury my father”
- What could be more compelling? Positive concern.
- Keeping 5th Commandment (Matthew 15:3-5)
2. He’s not dead

C. An urgent calling (60)

1. Let the dead bury the dead!
 - Spiritually dead can bury the physically dead.
2. Much greater work to be done!
 - Proclaiming the Word of Life – in the Kingdom of God.
 - The need is great – and *urgent!*

III. I'll Follow You – But...

A. Just saying “good-bye” (61)

- What could be wrong with that? (1 Kings 19:20)

1. Danger of persuasion
2. Half-hearted engagement

B. Hard words?? (62)

C. No turning back

1. A dangerous practice (Numbers 11; Genesis 19:26)
2. A savior who “set His face” toward Jerusalem
 - Forsaking home, family, safety and life

IV. Worth the Cost!

1. This world is dying; destined for judgment and destruction.
 - Mark 10:29,30
2. Jesus believed it was worth the cost.
3. Pursuing the Kingdom of God