

## Luke 9:57-62

29 November 2020

ICEBREAKER: In your youth, what was a common **excuse** you used to escape chores or homework?

Large Group Questions:

(Read verses 57-58) A man, whom Matthew's Gospel identified as a Jewish scribe (Matthew 8:19), came to declare to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." Interestingly, Jesus does **not rejoice** at his dramatic decision. Neither does Jesus begin to **recount** all the **blessings** his decision would bring. Instead, Jesus describes to him the real **costs** to becoming one of His disciples.

1. What has been a **cost** to you in **following** and **obeying Jesus**?

(Read verses 57-58) As a scribe, this Jew belonged to a privileged few. He was educated and probably was accustomed to a **comfortable life**. Therefore, Jesus explained to him the **cost** he should expect in becoming His disciple. Although foxes and birds have **homes** to **shelter** them from natural **enemies** and give them **comfort**, Christians can never expect such a home and safety in this world.

All who follow Jesus can **never expect** to be **safe** or **comfortable** with the **values of this world**. **Ease** and **comfort** are not promises Jesus offers His disciples.

2. What have you seen as the **dangers** of **seeking comfort** and **ease** from this **world**?

(Read verses 59-60) When Jesus called another man to follow him, the man gave him what appears to be a **noble excuse**. The **first thing** he must do was to bury his father. However, in Jesus' time, when a person died that person was **buried** the very **same day**. Therefore, the **burial** would have **already occurred** by the time this man was talking with Jesus.

A year after the first burial, after the flesh had rotted off the bones, the son would return to rebury the bones in a special box in a slot in the tomb wall. Thus, the son here was asking for as much as a **year's delay** in following Jesus.

Jesus responded strongly to the son's **procrastination**. Jesus warned him that all **family obligations** and **relationships come second to following and obeying Him**.

3. Why does Jesus demand us to **prioritize Him** even over **family obligations** and **relationships**?

(Read verses 61-62) Still another person promised to follow Jesus. However, he asked permission **first** to **go back** home and say good-bye to his family. Perceiving this person's indecision, Jesus described a familiar analogy. Because the wooden, hand-held plow was light and often had an iron point, a farmer had to keep his **eyes forward on the path** of the plow to keep its furrow from becoming **crooked**.

Jesus discerned this man's problem was **not** so much **going back**, as it was **always looking back**. His problem was **not** his **actual return** to his family, but his reluctance **to break with it**. Jesus warned him he could **not follow** him in the **present** if he kept **living in the past**.

4. Why is it **disastrous** to follow Christ in the **present**, but operate in the **habits** and **thinking** of your **past**?

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PRAYER GROUP TIME

*(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)*

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