

“The Demands of Discipleship”

Luke 9:51-62

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I. Introduction

- A. We come today in our study of Luke’s gospel to a major turning point.
 - 1. Beginning here in chapter 9:51 and continuing for ten chapters up to the triumphal entry in chapter 19:44, Jesus is on the road journeying toward Jerusalem.
 - 2. The period of time covers around 3 to 4 months
 - 3. Why is Jesus traveling toward Jerusalem?
 - a) To suffer and die on the cross for the sins of mankind
- B. Luke’s focus of this new section will be on the teaching of Jesus
 - 1. As we journey with Jesus on His way to the cross, He wants to prepare His followers for the hardships that lie ahead (afflictions)
 - 2. Today in our text, Jesus teaches us some of the “demands of discipleship”

II. He Demands Mercy (Luke 9:51-56)

- A. Like Jesus, we should set our face with steady determination to follow the Father’s path wherever it may lead, even if it leads to suffering for His sake
 - 1. The first lesson came out of the experience of rejection
- B. Be ready to show mercy even to your enemies and those who reject Christ
 - 1. James and John had “zeal” and even Scripture, but they were wrong and didn’t have the Spirit or the heart of Christ (v. 55)
- C. Why Jesus came
 - 1. Not to destroy, but to deliver
 - 2. (John 3:17)

III. He Demands Whole-Hearted Commitment (Luke 9:57-62)

- A. Jesus encounters three would-be disciples
 - 1. Would-be disciple (vv. 57-58)
 - a) Following Jesus Christ involves hardships (v. 58)
 - b) To be a true follower of Jesus Christ is no “walk in the park”
 - c) “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel’s. But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first” (Mark 10:29-31).
 - d) So often, the desire for personal comfort keeps people from following Jesus
 - e) *“No one who commits to following Christ, and does so, lives a life of ease. No one. If your Christianity has not brought discomfort to your life, something is wrong. A committed heart knows the discomfort of loving difficult people, the discomfort of giving of until it hurts, the discomfort of*

putting oneself out for the ministry of Christ and his church, the discomfort of a life out of step with modern culture, the discomfort of being disliked, the occasional sense of having nowhere to lay your head. But Christ's rewards far out value anything lose by following him.” – R. Kent Hughes

- f) How about you?
- 2. Would-be disciple (vv. 59-60)
 - a) “Following Jesus Christ’s demands urgency and should be our utmost priority” (v. 60)
 - b) Have you made following Christ the highest priority in your life?
 - c) Do you serve Him with a sense of urgency?
 - d) Procrastination is a great enemy of discipleship
 - e) What are you waiting for?
- 3. Would-be disciple (vv. 61-62)
 - a) The problem was that the man set his own terms for following Jesus
 - 1) “Let me first” (a conditional discipleship) (v. 61)
 - 2) He had not denied himself and taken up his cross
 - 3) The danger of family keeping you from following Christ’s call
 - 4) “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26-27).
 - 5) Jesus wants our undivided loyalty
 - a. Illustration- Jesus said, “Remember Lot’s wife”
 - 6) “Lord, I will follow you, but...” (v. 61)
 - a. Jesus said, “If you seek to find your life you will...”