

LUKE 9:51-62

LESSON: TWO LESSONS IN DISCIPLESHIP —February 9, 2020

INTRODUCTION

LUKE 9:46-50 ⁴⁶The disciples started an argument among themselves as to which of them would be the greatest in the coming Kingdom. ⁴⁷Jesus, knew their thoughts, and took a little child and had him stand beside Himself ⁴⁸...saying to them, *"Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. In other words, "Anyone who takes care of a little child like this is caring for me! And whoever cares for me is caring for God who sent me. Your care for others is the measure of your greatness, for it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest."* ⁴⁹His disciple John came to him and said, *"Master, we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."* ⁵⁰But Jesus said, *"Do not stop him, for whoever is not against you is for you."*

LESSON: I. MISUNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP LUKE 9:51-56

9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,— As the time was drawing near for Jesus to be taken up, referring to the ascension of Christ into heaven, He steadily set His face to go to Jerusalem. Although Jesus knew He would face suffering and persecution and death, He was steadfastly ready.

9:52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. Jesus sent messengers, going ahead of Him into a Samaritan village to make arrangements for His coming. This reminds us of a forerunner going before Jesus to prepare the way. We all know of John the Baptist, and as we go forward many will go before others and be Jesus' forerunner and experience opposition.

9:53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. Although the messengers were sent to prepare the way, Jesus was still rejected by the Samaritans because His face was set toward Jerusalem, a place they despised. The Jews were unacceptable to them. Jerusalem had their own worship and priests, and the Samaritans had theirs. If Jesus would worship in their temple, they would gladly receive Him; if not, then, He was not welcomed. Jesus understood the severity of the matter of choosing to go to Jerusalem. This was His calling: persecution and suffering. The village of the Samaritans was not His place of destination, but it was to lay His head down for the night. He needed their hospitality, but the animosity the Samaritans had toward the Jews wouldn't allow that to happen.

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9:54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?— The disciples James and


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John, also known as the *"sons of thunder"* were upset, fiery and angry over the rejection by the Samaritans. They misunderstood the purpose of discipleship. They asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to consume the people and destroy the village, even as Elijah had called down fire.

9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. The disciples were rebuked by Jesus. They didn't know that their manner of spirit was the same as the Samaritans. They were full of bitterness, wrath, and vengeance, reacting against the Samaritans, just as the Samaritans had reacted against the Jews and Jesus. They wanted to destroy the Samaritans because the Samaritans were not willing to worship (Jesus) and live as James and John wished. So, Jesus was causing them to take a look at themselves by asking *"what kind of spirit are you presenting as disciples?"*

9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. Jesus lets His disciples know that His mission was not to destroy life, but to save it. He came to use His power to save men. *"The Son of Man has the power on earth to forgive sins"* Matt.9:6. So, they then went on to another village.

II. COSTS OF DISCIPLESHIP LUKE 9:57-62

9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. Everywhere Jesus goes He attracts people. They're either for Him or against him. Now, a certain man offered to become a follower of Jesus, and he made an unusual promise—he would follow Jesus wherever He led him. Why? For the same reasons so many are attracted to the Lord.

- He enjoyed the presence of the Lord and His followers.
- He was motivated by the Lord's wisdom and teaching.
- He appreciated the good the Lord did.

This man did not make excuses, for he had made up his mind to follow Jesus. He was not of the twelve that Jesus chose, but he willingly volunteered to go. But this certain man didn't understand how difficult it would be to follow Jesus or the cost it would entail. We have to make sure our commitments are not *"self-commitments"* (fleshly; when we want to; temporary), but they are *"God commitments"* (His Spirit that holds you to abandon self). He can keep you in a place that you don't want to be because it's not about you, it's about Him! His staying power overwhelms all flesh. His humbling power overwhelms to give peace where He's told you to stay.

9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. Jesus' reply was to the point. The man had to count the cost, for Jesus offered no luxury and no material comfort—only self-denial. He did not even have a place to lay His head. The animals of the world did: the birds of the air had their nests and the foxes had their holes, but the Son of man—Jesus had no place... He gave all to meet the needs of a dying and desperate world. The *"Son of Man"* serves as a *"Representative Man"* for the human race in God's plan for world history.

9:59 Jesus is not only what an ordinary man is, but He's the Son of man; Jesus is the embodiment of what every man ought to be.

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9:59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus speaks to another man, and calls him to come and follow Him, but the man says *"Lord permit, allow me to first go and bury my father."* This is vague in the instance that in the commentaries either the father has died and the son is waiting on his inheritance, or the father had died and needs to be buried. But it shows that before following Jesus the man wanted to get his affairs in order and asks Jesus to wait on him. Wow! You'll probably saying, well he didn't really deny or say no to Jesus, he just wanted to do this little thing for his father first. Excuses are out when you're in the *"Armed Services"*, so why should it be different in the *"Service of the Lord?"*

9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. Well, Jesus demanded more from the man He called to follow Him. Jesus saw partial commitment. He tells the man *"Let the dead bury their dead, but he's to go preach the kingdom of God!"* Point blank! What does that mean? He's showing the man the cost of the call, and that Christ must come first in all things. This was the first act (lesson) of obedience or discipleship—

- **FOLLOW ME.** Did this seem harsh? Jesus was not taking any excuses. I guess if you start taking excuses, you'll be forever taking excuses. Or, I guess if you start taking excuses, you'll live by excuses. Either following Christ means you're in or you're out! And Jesus will certainly go to the next person when you say no or hesitate. Remember when Jesus called a dead man out of the grave, who had been buried and stinking with all of his grave clothes on? It was Lazarus, and he didn't hesitate to come forth. He came out without excuses at the voice and Word of Jesus. We are alive with plenty of excuses of why we don't want to follow the One who has given us LIFE.

9:61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. There is another man ready to take the other man's place. The idea is that once you said I will follow, you don't have time to do something else. However, what happened? He also had an excuse: *"Let me first go bid my people at the house farewell."* His assumption was that he thought he had time to say goodbye to his family.

9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Jesus is still teaching His disciples. This would be the second act (lesson) of obedience—

- **DON'T LOOK BACK.** Putting your hand to the plough means you're ready to work; you're going forward. Therefore, no man is to start the work and then look back. God wants total dedication to the kingdom of God.

SUMMARY:

As the time was drawing near for Jesus to be taken up into heaven, He steadily set His face to go to Jerusalem. Jesus sent messengers to go ahead of Him into a Samaritan village to make arrangements for His coming. Jesus was rejected by the Samaritans because His face was set on the way to Jerusalem, meaning this was not His place of destination, but to lay His head down for the night. He needed their hospitality, but the animosity the Samaritans had toward the Jews wouldn't allow that to happen. The disciples James and John were angry over the rejection by the Samaritans. They even asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to consume the people and destroy the village, as Elijah had called down fire. Jesus rebuked the disciples and asked *"what kind of spirit are you presenting as disciples?"* Jesus lets His disciples know that His mission was not to destroy life, but to save it. He came to use His power to save men (9:51-56).

Now, a certain man offered to become a follower of Jesus, and he made an unusual promise—he would follow Jesus wherever He led him. But this certain man didn't understand how difficult it would be to follow Jesus or the cost it would entail. Jesus' reply was to the point: *"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."* This meant that the animals had somewhere to lay their heads, but Jesus had no place to lay His head. Jesus calls another man to come and follow Him, but the man says *"Lord permit, allow me to first go and bury my father."* He didn't really deny or say no to Jesus, he just wanted to do this little thing for his father first. Jesus demanded more from the man. This was to be his first act of obedience—**Follow Me**. He tells the man *"Let the dead bury their dead, but he's to go preach the kingdom of God!"* Another man desires to follow Jesus, but he also had an excuse: *"Let me first go bid my people at the house farewell."* Jesus teaches that putting your hand to the plough, you're ready to work and go forward, therefore looking back, he's not fit for the kingdom of God. This would be the second act of obedience—**Don't Look Back**. Therefore, no man is to start the work and then look back. God wants total dedication to the kingdom of God (9:57-62).