

Luke 9:57-10:12

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 59 To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." 61 Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." 62 Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. **2** And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **3** Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. **4** Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. **5** Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' **6** And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. **7** And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. **8** Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. **9** Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' **10** But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, **11** 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' **12** I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

1. What are initial observations about the passage?
 - a. Repeated words or phrases?
 - b. Repeated patterns or ideas?
 - c. Words you don't know?
 - d. How would you describe the tone of the passage?
 - e. Who are the characters?
 - f. What is the setting?
 - g. What are immediate questions you have after reading it?
2. What comes immediately before and after this passage?
3. If this passage were a movie, how many scenes would there be?
 - a. How would you divide up the scenes? Why?

9:52-57- It is costly to follow Jesus

In these verses there are three individuals who express desire to follow Jesus. Yet for each of them there are things they seem unwilling to part with to follow him. The big idea of this section is: Being a disciple of Jesus must take first priority over everything else in our lives.

The first man says in verse 57 that he will follow Jesus “Wherever [he] goes.” But Jesus tells him that he, the Son of Man, has no place to lay his head. Although he is the Son of God in the flesh - Jesus earthly circumstances did not reflect that he was King. He did not live in luxury, he didn’t even have a home! Although we may not have to forfeit our homes to follow Jesus, we will have to give up things in this world. To be a disciple of Jesus and to acknowledge him as Lord means that how we spend our money, our time, and our gifts must be shaped by his call. As we have already seen in Luke to be a disciple of Jesus is to “deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow him.” (Luke 9:23) What physical things in this world might you have to say no to in order to say yes to Jesus?

The stakes only get higher as we meet the second and third would-be disciples. Jesus calls a man to follow him in verse 59. The man's request seems reasonable; he asks if he can first go and bury his father. Jesus' words seem harsh and insensitive, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead.” Why would Jesus say this? Jesus is not unaffected by death. In John 11, Jesus weeps over the grave of his friend Lazarus even as he knows that he will soon restore him to life. Jesus is not opposed to family - as God Himself he is the Creator of marriage and family. But we have already seen in Luke that Jesus has come to redefine family. In Luke 8:19-21, we see that Jesus defines his mother and brothers “as those who hear the Word of God and do it.” Jesus defines his family as those who are obedient to God his Father. We should not see Jesus' words as insensitive, but they should be startling to us. Being a disciple of Jesus must take first place over everything else, even loved ones.

We see a similar idea in the last would-be disciple Jesus speaks to. The third man wants to follow Jesus, but to first say his goodbyes to his family. This seems again like a reasonable request! But we must notice Jesus’ response: “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” In these words Jesus acknowledges that there will be many things we once loved greatly that must be re-prioritized in order to be his disciple. Can you think of any things you loved greatly before becoming a Christian? Or as a Christian, things that you loved

too much, more than Jesus himself? The confidence of the disciple of the Lord Jesus is that to follow him wherever that leads is far better than anything we leave behind.

10:1-12- Disciples of Jesus are those who make more disciples

_____ We see Jesus send out seventy-two disciples to go ahead of him to the places that he himself will soon go. In verse 2, Jesus acknowledges a reality that is still true today: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” Throughout all the world God is graciously, faithfully drawing men, women, and children to faith in the Lord Jesus. More often than not, God calls people to trust in Jesus and follow him through Christians. Jesus is here acknowledging that it is the work of every Christian to make disciples, but that not all Christians are engaged in the work. Pause and pray as a family that you will be a family who are laborers in the harvest.

Jesus provides instruction for his disciples to go out with, “no moneybag, no knapsack, and no sandals.” I don’t think this is normal practice for us today. As we make disciples it is okay to have money, carry a backpack, and even to wear sandals. What Jesus wanted his disciples then and today to know is that we are ultimately completely dependent on him. Bringing nothing was a constant reminder to them that Jesus would provide for them, care for them, and give them favor. They were also not to jump from house to house in the towns they were in. I think Jesus said this to prevent the disciples from being in one house while looking around to see if there was something better out there. We also need the reminder that the best place for us to serve, love, and minister to others is the exact place that God has put us.

One of the last things we must make note of is that those who rejected Jesus’ disciples were ultimately rejecting Jesus himself. We see in verse 12 Jesus says of those who rejected his disciples, “it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.” Sodom was a place filled with wicked people that God punished. Read Genesis 19 to get a better idea. We mentioned earlier that God draws people to himself today through disciples of Jesus. Now that Jesus is ascended in heaven at the right hand of God the Father, and the apostles have long passed away, the Gospel goes forward through followers of Jesus announcing just what he told his disciples 2,000 years ago to proclaim, “The Kingdom of God has come near to you.” The King has arrived! The long awaited Savior-Messiah has come, and his name is Jesus. He lived the life we could not, died the death we deserved, rose victoriously

over sin and death, and now sits ascended at God the Father's right hand. He will come again, to judge both the living and the dead.

4. What are things that would be difficult for you to give up to follow Jesus?
5. What have we learned about Jesus in Luke thus far that makes him worthy of giving everything else up for?
6. Would you call yourself a disciple of Jesus? Why or why not?
 - a. What do you think it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
7. Part of being a disciple is making other disciples, what does this mean?
8. Who is an unbelieving person God has placed around you that you can tell about Jesus?
9. Who is a believing friend God has placed around you that you can encourage with these truths?
10. How should this passage change the way you think?
 - a. What does it teach you about God?
 - b. What does it teach you about yourself?
11. How should this passage shape your affections?
 - a. What or who does this passage tell you to love?
 - b. What does this passage tell you to hate?
 - c. What does this passage say you may love too much?
12. How should this passage shape my actions?
 - a. Are there sins you need to confess and repent of?
 - b. Are there commands to be obeyed?
 - c. Are there promises to be believed?
 - d. Are there examples to follow?