

## **The Demands of Discipleship**

### **Luke 9:51-62**

**Introduction-** We come today in our study of Luke's gospel to a major turning point. Beginning here and continuing for ten chapters up to the triumphal entry. Jesus is on the road journeying toward Jerusalem. Jesus wants to prepare his disciples for the hardships that lay ahead as they follow Him in the way of the cross.

Our text today, Jesus teaches us some of what He demands of His disciples.

#### **I. He Demanded Mercy, vv. 51-56**

1. Like Jesus, we too should set our face with steady determination to follow the Father's path where ever it may lead.
2. Be ready to show mercy to even your enemies.
3. Why Jesus came. The Master's Mission (v. 56)

#### **II. He Demanded Whole-Heartedness, vv. 56-62**

1. First man (vv. 57-58)

Following Jesus Christ involves hardships, so count the costs.

*“So what did Jesus mean by his strong assertion? He meant that at times those who followed him would literally be homeless, that they would undergo immense discomfort. But more, Jesus was saying that if you walk with him, you will sense that the world is not your home. There will be dissonance, discomfort, unease, and rejection. He was saying that to follow him, one must embrace a life of discomfort.*

*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 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 lost by following him.”*

-R. Kent Hughes

So often the desire for personal comfort keeps people from following Jesus.

## 2. Second man (vv. 59-60)

Following Jesus demands urgency and the highest priority. Have you made following Christ obediently the highest priority of your life? Do you serve Him with a sense of urgency? Procrastination is a great enemy of discipleship.

*“The one who procrastinates has heard Jesus’ call and has acknowledged the necessity of obeying it. But other obligations press forward in his or her mind and crowd obedience out. The individual does not intend to delay forever. “Just let me attend to this small thing first,” he pleads. But the delay of an hour becomes a day’s delay. A day becomes a week, a week a year, and at last a lifetime had passed without any genuine response to Christ’s call.”*

-James Montgomery Boice

## 3. The Third Man (vv. 61-62)

a. The problem was the man's determination to set his own terms following Jesus (v. 61).

b. Contrast story, I Kings 19 of Elijah and Elisha. Also Lot's wife. Jesus said, “Remember Lot's wife.” Her spiritual privileges:

1. A saved man as her husband.
2. A godly man's friendship, Abraham.
3. Seen God's power in delivering her and others.
4. A special angelic visitation.

Yet she: Disobeyed God's word and loved the world and its pleasures!

You cannot follow Christ on your own terms!

We see here three common hinderances to discipleship:

1. Material comforts.
2. A job or occupation.
3. Family and friends.

William W. Borden was the heir of a wealthy Chicago family. In 1904 and 1905, at the age of eighteen, he traveled around the world. This was followed by a brilliant education at Yale and then Princeton Seminary, where he committed his life to see to win the Muslims in China to Christ. Before he left, Borden gave away some \$500,000 (equivalent to \$10,000,000 in the 1990s) and served at the age of twenty-three as a trustee of Moody

Bible Institute. In 1913, in his twenty-sixth year, he left for Egypt and never looked back. It was the final year of his life, because in Cairo he contracted cerebral meningitis. As he lay dying, he scribbled this note: "No reserve, no retreat, no regrets."