

LUKE 9:57-62

LUKE 9:57-62

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

***59 He said to another man, "Follow me."
But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."***

LUKE 9:57-62

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

There has been a competitive and selfish attitude among the disciples of Jesus that has consistently been met with rebuke.

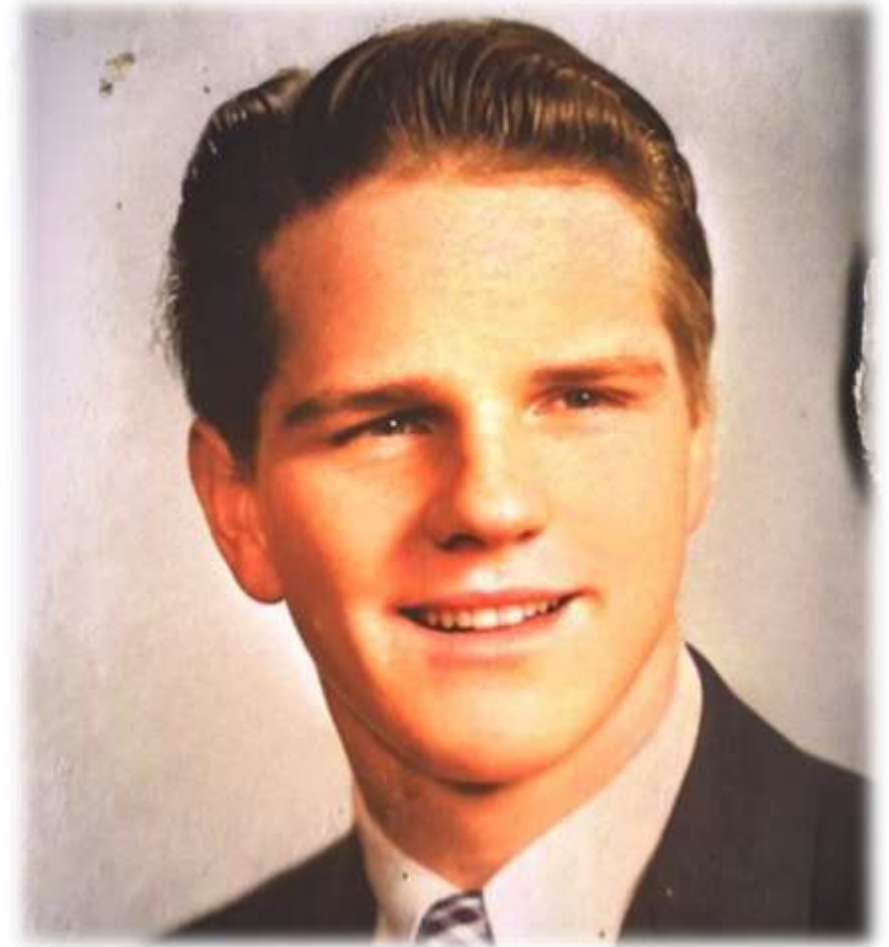
However, they had counted the cost of following Jesus and made the right decision.

This passage is a commendation for them and all who are willing to make temporary sacrifices in this life in order to gain an imperishable reward.



Jim Elliot: *“He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”*

A life that follows close to Christ will experience its share of hardships, but we must remain urgent and focused in fulfilling our calling.



A cinematic background image showing Jesus from behind, standing on a rocky hillside and looking out over Jerusalem at sunset. The city's walls and the Temple Mount are visible in the distance, silhouetted against the bright, golden light of the setting sun. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange-hued clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and majestic.

THE CALL OF THE KINGDOM

I. THE ENCOUNTER OF THE CALL

II. THE ESTIMATE OF THE CALL

III. THE EXPENSE OF THE CALL

Luke 9:57-62 is a challenging passage about the cost of discipleship. Jesus redefines following Him as a radical commitment that requires putting the Kingdom of God above personal comfort, earthly obligations, and sentimentality.



I. THE ENCOUNTER OF THE CALL

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” (Luke 9:57).

I. The Desirous Disciple.

He says, **“I will follow you,”** not **“I might follow you”** or **“I’m thinking about following you.”**

He is unconditional— **“wherever you go.”**

Too many of us sit back and wait instead of jumping into the fight for Christ.

We want to see how things go before we commit ourselves.

Jesus didn't say, **"Thank you."**

This man is attracted by the crowds.

He's amazed by the miracles and astounded by Jesus' teaching.

He loved it when he heard about Jesus walking on water and he was astounded by the multiplication of the loaves and fish.

This man is sincere in his desire but he has not yet counted the cost.

Jesus gave a powerful answer: *“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”*(Luke 9:58)



Jesus owned nothing but the clothes on his back.

He never owned a home, never had a bank account, never had a place he could call his own.

We are called to follow a homeless man.

He had none of the things we take for granted.

He lived day-to-day trusting in God to provide for his needs.

He traveled from place to place, depending entirely on the generosity of his followers for his food.

Jesus is challenging this desirous follower to count the cost before he signs up.

He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:59-60).

II. The Disinclined Disciple.

Unlike the first man who volunteered, Jesus calls this man personally.

He is sincere, serious, and evidently more thoughtful than the first man.

He had tried to count the cost.

The Jews took the responsibility of burying the dead very seriously.

If a son properly buried his father, he was considered to have performed a good work and was even excused from certain religious duties during that period.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **I Timothy 5:8** that if a man doesn't take care of his own family, he is worse than an unbeliever.

"Bury my father"

An excuse that allows him to delay following Christ for a long period of time.

He was torn between the right and the right.

He hesitated between two rival claims.

He wanted to follow Jesus, but not just yet.

The reply of Jesus: ***"Let the dead bury their own dead."***

It sounds almost rude.

How can dead people bury other dead people?

Death comes in several varieties.

There is physical death and then there is spiritual death.

In Jesus' mind, anyone who is not following him is spiritually dead. **(separated from God).**

"Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead."

It is by the preaching of the gospel that the lost are saved and the spiritually dead are raised to life.

The Kingdom must come first and Kingdom work must take precedence over the affairs of this world.

A challenging question: **"Would you rather bury the dead or raise the dead?"**

"Hard word" - Your family must not become an excuse not to serve the Lord.

When Christ calls, we cannot delay.

One delay leads to another.

And finally, we end up not going at all.

Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:61-62).



III. The Divided Disciple.

Contradiction of terms. **"Lord, But."**

If He is really the Lord of your life, then don't say **"but"** to Him.

If you want to say **"but,"** then don't call Him Lord.

He wants to tie up some loose ends at home first.

All he wants to do is to say goodbye.

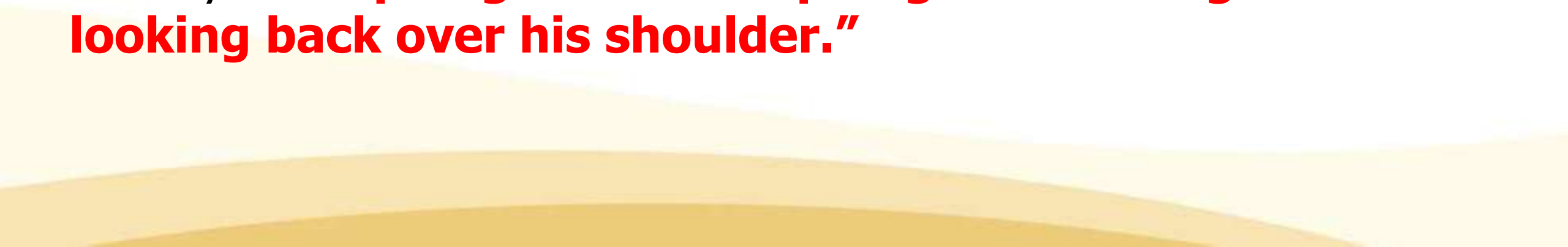
Eg. Elisha.

Once you put your hand to the plow, don't look back.

You've got to keep your eyes focused straight ahead.

In following Jesus, we are to keep our eyes on Jesus, and never take our eyes off Him.

Barclay: **"No ploughman ever ploughed a straight furrow looking back over his shoulder."**

The bottom of the slide features a series of overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in shades of yellow and orange, creating a decorative, landscape-like effect.

Plowmen also do something else of great importance: **They hold on.**

A plowman who let go is no plowman at all.

Morrison: “Ploughmen are not usually learned persons, nor are they often poets in disguise.

But there is one virtue they possess pre-eminently, and that is the virtue of quietly **holding to it.”**

This man wanted to keep the back door open, he wanted to make a deal to protect his family. He wanted their approval.

Luke 14:26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.”

The ***"hate"*** of this verse doesn't refer to personal animosity.

Being faithful to Jesus Christ and following his call on your life may mean that from time to time you will do things that seem to your loved ones as if you hate them.

Such is the price we all must pay to be a disciple of Christ.

II. THE ESTIMATE OF THE CALL

"Value"

1. More Valuable Than Your Comfort.

We cannot sacrifice more than the gospel is worth.

We ought to be willing to sell everything in order to gain a heavenly reward.

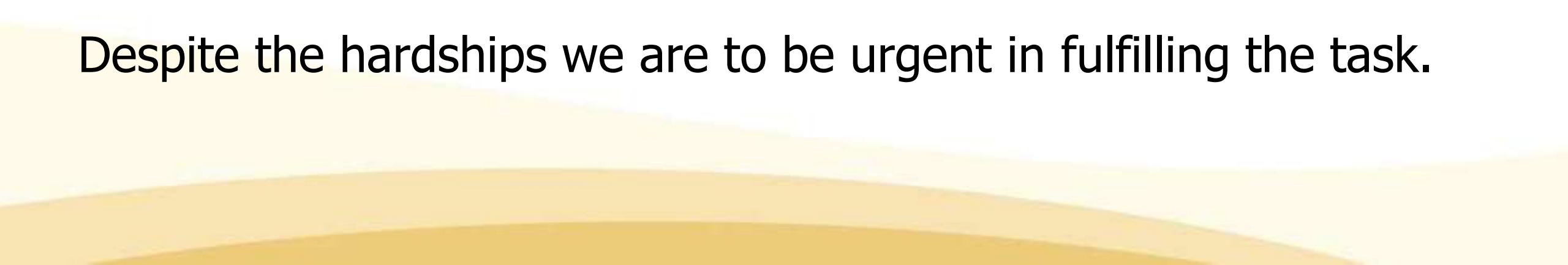
We can expect to be uncomfortable in this life.

We will experience the same kinds of things that Christ experienced.

We will be rejected, mocked, and persecuted.

Following Christ begins with a serious assessment of our willingness to endure to the end whatever the cost may be.

Despite the hardships we are to be urgent in fulfilling the task.



2. More Important Than Your Obligations.

We are commanded to honor our father and mother.

But the kingdom of God supersedes every cultural commitment.

The only proper response to Jesus' command to follow him was an immediate departure.

His mission left no time for other affairs.



Sproul: Right now, in terms of redemptive history nothing else matters.

Let the dead bury the dead.

Jesus was not setting down here a standard for all times, that we are always supposed to neglect our dead and wounded.

No, he said, **'Right now, the kingdom of God is at stake and there is only one place you can be and that is at the front line of the kingdom.'**

One of the clearest obligations we have is the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Let us take up that mission with renewed urgency.



3. More Significant Than Your Family.

Jesus says we are not worthy of him if we love him less than we love our parents and children.

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple”(Lk 14:26).

You simply cannot give your full focus to two different purposes.

Either you are committing your life to follow Christ's mission, or you are continuing to live for yourself.

Jesus is probably referring to Lot's wife who looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah and turned into a pillar of salt.

That divided interest was proof that she wasn't really committed to leaving and obeying.



III. THE EXPENSE OF THE CALL

1 Kings 19: 19- 21 (NIV)

So, Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye," he said, "and then I will come with you."

“Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?”

So, Elisha left him and went back.

He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them.

He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate.

Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.



Elijah finds Elisha plowing a field and casts his mantle (cloak) over him, a symbolic act of choosing him as his successor and servant.

Elisha runs after him, asking only to bid his parents farewell before joining him.

Elijah allows him to return.

Elisha then makes a clean break from his previous life.



He slaughters his oxen, cooks the meat using his plowing equipment for fire, feeds the people, and then leaves to serve Elijah.

Romans 11: 29 - "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

God is still calling men and women to respond to His call.

He has lavished us with His goodness and lovingkindness.



Why still so many failed to respond?

Why we walk away?

1. We choose **comfort and attraction over calling**: Since foxes have holes and birds have nests, but you have no place to lay your head, it is not convenient.
2. We **prioritize ties and obligations**: We delay because we have other affairs and excuses. As a result, we bury the dead instead of raising the spiritually dead.

3. We have a divided loyalty: Jesus is looking for undivided loyalty. Looking back to your old life made you "unfit for the kingdom of God" because we get caught between God and our family tradition and influence.

We have problem with commitment.

We cannot and do not commit because we have **FEAR.**

Our biggest questions: **"What will my life be after it?"**
"What will happen to me next?"

Elisha did radical things for the call's expense.

The moment that mantle was cast over him, he decided to follow Elijah.

He decided to follow Elijah wholly because he had the right estimation and he put value on God's call.

In our times of failures, we need people like Elisha to influence us.

But behold, One, greater than Elisha the prophet has come.

Hebrews 1: 1- 3a –*“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”*



2,000 years ago, God sent the perfect model, whose commitment no one has ever equaled - Jesus, the Son of God.

Jesus walked towards Jerusalem.

He was going to face the judgment on the cross.

Yet He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.



There are two kinds of courage:

- the courage of the moment, which requires no previous thought.
- planned courage, which sees the difficulty ahead and steadfastly marches towards it.

Jesus had this kind of courage.

He saw the cross on the horizon, but still committed to set His face to go to Jerusalem.

His commitment was tested by:

- the offers from the world
- by the persuasions of His friends
- by the unworthiness of His clients
- by the ease with which He could have backed out if He had wished to
- by the taunts of those who mocked Him
- by the full stress and agony of the cross.

Elisha's commitment to God's call was rewarded with a long life.

Jesus' commitment to the Father's call brought Him death on the cross.

Jesus deserved a golden crown for His unequaled commitment but a crown of thorns was placed on His head.

Why such a committed, sinless man had to die ruthlessly?



Jesus was showing us that we don't have to be afraid of being committed because He already conquered fear on the cross.

We don't have to be afraid of men who can only kill our bodies because we have the fear of God who has the power of life.



Jesus, our greater Elisha has already defeated everything that brings us fear.

Jesus already became poor for you, Jesus already faced persecutions for you.

Jesus even faced death for you.

Above that, the power of His resurrection enables us to do all things.

Jesus gives us the courage even if we know or we don't know what will happen, because one thing we know for sure is He has committed His presence to us.

CONCLUSION:

God is looking for people who will be useful for His kingdom. He is calling us today.

Do not say, “How can God use me?” Is there anything too hard for the Lord?

When you are willing and you commit, you will be surprised at how much you can be useful for the kingdom of God.



“What will my life be after I commit?” “What will happen to me next?”

Mark 10: 29- 30, *“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.”*