

Journey to Jerusalem, Part 1: Following Jesus to Jerusalem
Luke 9:51-62, p.

Luke 9:51 [ESV]

When the days grew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:52-56 [NIV]

And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village.

Luke 9:57-58 [NIV]

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

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

Luke 9:59-60 [NIV]

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 9:61-62 [NIV]

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 9:23-24 [NIV]

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

I welcome you to explore the following this week to delve deeper into today's sermon. -Pastor Travis

Consider that when Jesus calls you to follow him, he asks for total commitment. Trusting Jesus and following him brings the great reward of peace, eternal life, and most importantly a growing love-relationship with our Creator. It also brings the challenges of self-denial, service and sometimes suffering.

Day 1:

What are some of the joys or benefits you have experienced that have only come from following Jesus?

Where is "following Jesus" taking you right now? What challenges are you facing at this point in your life?

Day 2:

Thinking of the first would-be disciple, can you identify any material things that threaten to keep you from following Jesus? [love of home, desire for security, want of luxury]. Could you give this up if God asked you? Ask him to ready you ahead of time for any things you may need to give up in order to follow Jesus.

Day 3:

Thinking of the second would-be disciple, are there family obligations that you need to subordinate to your obligation to follow Jesus wherever he is leading you? We are not talking about abandoning responsibility to your family, but the need to follow Jesus first. For example, do you let work, school, or extreme schedules keep you from regular time in God's word or talking with him in prayer?

Is there one (even small) thing you would like to change in your regular schedule that will help you to follow Jesus more closely?

Day 4:

Thinking of the third would-be disciple, do you recognize past things (relationships, habits, memories) that keep you from moving forward in service to God? Memorize these words of Paul:

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. [Philemon 3:13-14]