

Luke 9:57-62

“3 Excuses that keep you from Following Jesus”

LET'S PRAY -

AS YOU SETTLE IN PLEASE TURN TO Luke 9:57-62...

- I've titled this morning's message: **“3 Excuses that keep you from Following Jesus”**

WE'RE GOING TO WITNESS 3 WOULD-BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

- they illustrate 3 main hindrances to full hearted discipleship
 - These men had seen enough of Jesus to know who He was.
 - Jesus is not looking for temporary emotional commitments — He is calling for lifelong discipleship.
 - And Excuses will keep you from fulfilling God's calling for your life
 - What keeps us from fully surrendering to Christ?

(READ V.57-62)

IS JESUS IS BEING UNREASONABLE?

- We must understand the context and word choice
 - He is directly challenging the issues of the heart
 - If you've ever read a modern day book on evangelism...
 - Jesus does the opposite!
 - John 6:66 NLT

FOLLOWING HIM MEANS ABANDONING EVERYTHING

- Abandoning your plans, your ambitions, and your control of your life.
 - You can not be his disciple unless...

EACH OF THE 3 MEN DEMONSTRATE THEIR OWN HINDERANCES

- 1- Comfort, 2- Convenience, 3- A Heart of Compromise
 - There are always reasons and 'good' excuses why not follow Jesus
 - Luke 14:16-20
 - These are all good excuses but excuses nonetheless
 - Key: “If a good thing keeps you from the best thing it becomes a bad thing”

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EACH MAN HAD A HEART ISSUE WHEN SPEAKING TO JESUS

- The first man made too quick of a decision
- The second man made too slow of a decision
- The third man's issue was he wanted to give one final kiss to the world

(READ V.57-58)

IDEA 1 - The Excuse of Comfort

AT FIRST IT DOESN' T SEEM LIKE JESUS' ANSWER TO THIS MAN FITS

- Following Jesus - the forsaking of the comforts and conveniences of life
 - In Matthew's Gospel we are told that this man was a scribe
 - Jesus uses the title 'Son of Man'
 - He had a lot of knowledge but no wisdom
 - He knew it would cost him something, but he didn't know it would cost him EVERYTHING

WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT

- That doesn't seem like a comfortable commitment to me
 - Jesus does not promise comfort when you follow him.
 - Luke 10:3 NLT
 - “Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves.”
 - Key: Comfort can become an idol when you prioritize your own creature comforts above taking steps of faith
 - And unfortunately this scribe was not willing to pay the price of self denial

YOU MUST GIVE UP WHAT OTHER CONSIDER NECESSITIES

- There are more important things in life than football and our 401k
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer - “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die”
 - You must count the cost of following Jesus

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AMPLIFIED TRUTH IN LUKE 14:28-30 NLT

- There is a cost to pay when following Jesus
 - when you build your life on Jesus he is the one who provides all the resources you need
 - That from his unlimited resources he will strengthen you

IDEA 2 - The Excuse of Convenience

(READ V.59-60)

IT SEEMS LIKE A SIMPLE REQUEST - WHY DOESN'T JESUS GRANT IT?

- Well, scholars write that the father was not dead yet
 - ‘Jesus, I will follow you, but just not now’
 - This man was looking for a more convenient time to obey Jesus
 - Yes Jesus, I’ll follow you, but I’ll follow you after...
 - I retire
 - I settle down and get married
 - I Graduate
 - I _____
- Progressive choices of misprioritization
 - Death -> Estate -> Inheritance -> Second Burial -> ETC.
 - Burial was not a quick process
 - There is always another responsibility that the man had to handle before he could follow
 - Jesus is always just one responsibility away

WHAT WE ARE SEEING IS A MISORDERING OF PRIORITIES

- He called Jesus ‘Lord’ but actually put his own desires and interests first
 - Jesus is either Lord of all or not Lord at all

PROCRASTINATED OBEDIENCE = PROCRASTINATED FRUIT

- Ecclesiastes 11:4 NLT
 - The principle is that if we wait for the perfect circumstances, you will never follow Jesus because the perfect circumstances don’t exist

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- And when you procrastinate, you miss out on the harvest

HE WAS THE ONLY ONE TO BE DIRECTLY CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS

- The other 2 came to Jesus on their own volition but Jesus pursued this man
 - He was worried about someone else’s funeral instead of planning his own
 - Another hard truth he shared was:
 - Luke 14:26 NLT
 - And if you struggle with this, good! Jesus wants you to wrestle with it.

OBEDIENCE ALWAYS TRUMPS CONVENIENCE

- Convenience is not wrong itself, but it can be a hindrance to steps of faith
 - consider all of the conveniences we have today:
 - conveniences remove a sense of dependency on God for our daily needs
 - Key: Faith requires risk.
 - Risk is a real factor when you choose to live by faith
 - When Jesus called you It may not have been convenient but neither is picking up your cross and dying to yourself

JUST LOOK AT THE LIFE OF JESUS:

- He was constantly inconvenienced for us.
 - After so much ministry he was exhausted
 - In times he tried to rest and the crowds followed him anyway
 - Instead of sending them away, he spent hours concerned with their needs rather than focusing on his own
 - And as christians we are just reflections of Him

IDEA 3 - The Excuse of Compromise

(READ V. 61-62)

IT SOUNDS LIKE A REASONABLE REQUEST

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- But he was asking a manipulative question He was actually quoting scripture
 - He sounds spiritual but had a divided heart
 - but a compromising heart is not what Jesus demands of you
 - 1 Kings 19:19-21 NLT

THE TRUTH JESUS CONFRONTS THIS MAN WITH IS THAT

- You cant have it both ways, either your all in or not in at all
 - The bible says that you can not serve 2 masters,
 - Matthew 7:21 NLT
 - It doesn't matter if you call Jesus Lord - your life will reveal whether He truly is Lord.

AGAIN THIS MAN WAS QUOTING ELISHA

- But here is the difference between the 2 men
 - The man in our study just wanted one last kiss of the world while...
 - Elisha burned the plow, as if to say, I'm not coming back here

(READ V. 62)

JESUS TARGETS THE HEART ISSUE HERE

- In agriculture crooked crop lines would ruin a field
 - [Hardscaping Yard illustration]

SO CAPTURE THIS IDEA WITH ME

- Those seasons of your life where you are looking back at the plow become less effective and fruitless
 - Key: A divided heart always leads to diminished fruit
 - Phil 3:12-14 NKJV

BETWEEN ALL OF THESE MEN THEY ALL HAD AN EXCUSE

- Comfort, convenience, and compromise
 - You and I can always find a reason not to follow the Lord

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INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH LUKE DOES NOT RECORD THE OUTCOME

- I think that is because the more important question is not how did they respond but rather how will you respond!

CALL WORSHIP UP

APPLICATION

HERE IS THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT JESUS

- These guys lacked power, love and self-discipline
 - 2 Tim 1:7
 - God did not give you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self- discipline
 - Its has more to do with what God gives you and his work in your life than your own abilities
 - The truth is that God has read your file...
 - He already knows your weaknesses and failures
 - And yet he still choose you
 - But everything hinges on our response to him!

PRAY