

## Jesus DIY Week 3

### Luke 9:57-62

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."

What are the motivations of the three men mentioned?

#### 1. Comfort / status

. 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."

Is Jesus saying here " You don't get it, you won't cope with the discomfort? Yeh. Being a Christian is sometimes uncomfortable and in reality some people don't cope with it.

For some people, the status of being a Christian is a bit much to handle. Or shall we say, the status turns out different from what we thought. The ridicule that comes with with, people put down people of faith, you know the “ people of faith just need a crutch to lean on.” Their right we do and I am proud to say my faith is what holds me up. Some don't cope with the intellectual criticism, people assuming that you throw your brain out when you have an element of faith. Yep, for some, it is too much.

## 2. Loyalty / priority

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.”

For some, family gets in the way of our relationship to Jesus. Yep. I hate to say this but even Christian families sometimes.

As an aside here, I remember telling Dad I was going to go to college and be a pastor. His comment was, “why would you want to do that. ” “ Why would you put yourself through it.”

We then talked about God's call but in Dad's eyes you wouldn't be a pastor as a career choice only as a calling from God.

### 3. Focus

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."

I am greatly impacted by this verse. For a number of reasons.

Firstly, Following Jesus is great, but it takes some work. And this passage tells us to stay focussed.

Secondly, this point was brought home to me by an experience I had years ago. I went to a heritage festival kind of thing and got talking to the guy who was demonstrating the ploughing. He was using four huge Clydesdales. I found out he was a Christian and we talked about this verse and he said, have a go at this. I got to plow a bit of the field. About half way along he said to me, "have a look back" so I did. I thought wow, I'm doing ok. At the end of the field he helped me turn the team around and said. "Stop a moment here. So I did. He said look at your work. I looked along the line of my plowing and it was straight except for a bit in the middle where it was a dogs breakfast, all over the place. He said " that's where you looked back" see what the story from Jesus is about". Great lesson. Focus on what God has for us, focus on our work, that farmer said, " " "look back on your work at the end of it. "

What are our motivations to minister?

Let's put it differently.

## What are our excuses to not minister?

Is it uncomfortable, is it misguided loyalties, is it we can concentrate and focus on it.

One thing I notice from that passage. It is about following. In Christian circles these days we talk about effective leadership or pastoral roles, or effective mentoring or even defining discipleship yet being a Christian is about following Jesus. First and foremost. Following without excuse, following without disobedience, following without agenda.