



Encounters With Jesus - "Follow Me"

Luke 9:57-62

What is a Disciple?

- Greek word mathētēs – lit. “a learner, a student”.
- English word ‘Apprentice’.
- In Gospels and Acts, used more than 260 times for believers/followers of Jesus.

"Christianity without Discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

- Follow Me

The Context - The Travel Narrative (Luke 9:51-19:47)

- Luke 9:51: “(Jesus) set his face to go to Jerusalem.”
- The shadow of the cross looms large.
- Luke 14:25 – Large crowds accompanied him.
- "Jesus was not after decisions; He was after disciples." (Bruce Hedman)

The Text

- Key word is “follow” – appears in verse 57, 59 and 61.
- 3 different responses to Jesus’ call to follow.
- 1) Verse 57-58 - First would-be disciple - compare Matthew 8:18-19.
- Follow Jesus entails hardships - (see Luke 12:11-12, 21:12-19; John 16:1-3, 33; Acts 14:22, etc.).
- 2) Verse 59-60 - “Leave the dead to bury their own dead.”
- 3) Verse 61-62 - No regrets! Look ahead, not back.

Summary

- Discipleship is Total! It involves following, imitating and obeying Jesus.
- Jesus FIRST before:
 - a) comfort (1st disciple's challenge),
 - b) cultural and family demands (2nd disciple's challenge) and
 - c) your own plans and desires (3rd disciples' challenge).

“A disciple is a person who has decided that the most important thing in their life is to learn how to do what Jesus said to do.” (Dallas Willard)

Application

- Salvation is God’s gift to you. Discipleship is your whole-life, all-of-life response.
- 1) Commit to Following.
- 2) Bring Others With you.